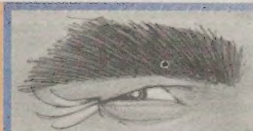




Arts 11
*Sculptor helps to repair church
sculptures in Lawrence*



alt.Edge 15
*Group goes to war with
Church of Scientology*

NECC Observer

Northern Essex
Community College

The Student Newspaper of Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill, Lawrence & North Andover, Mass.

Valentine's Day security scare



Aaron Foss photo

Eagle Security, the schools currently contracted security company is currently handling the case with Haverhill police department.

*An NECC student
allegedly threatens
teacher in altercation*

By DANIEL POTOCKI
Editor in Chief

On February 14, Valentine's Day, an NECC student got into a verbal altercation with teacher Carolyn Cohen during her developmental psychology class. During the altercation the student, described only as a white male in the police report, allegedly threatened Cohen's life if front of her class. Alternative Edge Editor Nick Sermuknsis is a student in the class and later reported what he witnessed to the Observer.

As the class began, Cohen took roll call and passed around a basket of candy. When the candy worked its way to the desk of student he allegedly place his hat on top of the basket and became belligerent when asked to answer a question. This allegedly sparked off a verbal altercation that was laced with obscenities and several threats

against Cohen. When asked to leave the class the student allegedly stood up and began circling Cohen while continuing his verbal assault. The student then abruptly left the class and campus, only to return later in the day to the campus before being detained by school security.

No official statement was released from the school until February 22. The statement came in the form of an email sent to all students and faculty from President David Hartleb.

"As President, I want to thank all staff and faculty involved for the timely and appropriate response to this incident and to say that I am extremely proud of how responsive we have been. It is evident to me that campus officials handled this situation with the utmost regard for campus safety and security," said Hartleb in the letter.

This explanation does not sit well with everyone involved, however, as students claimed even before the letter was sent around that they were unhappy with the school's response.

See Valentine's page 9

Individual Strength

*Jonathan Diciaccio
lets nothing hold him
back from his dreams*

By JUSTIN AGUIRRE
Contributing Reporter



Methuen native Jonathan Diciaccio isn't your typical college sophomore here at Northern Essex. You may have noticed him around the halls on his custom built, pedalless metallic green tricycle, likely followed by his caring mother Linda. Like most students he attends class, does his homework and gets good grades, but despite a disability he carries, his hopes and dreams are enormous, and his personality sticks with you long after you

first meet him.

Jonathan was born with Arthrogryposis, a rare, non-progressive congenital disorder that causes multiple joint contractures and is characterized by muscle weakness. It occurs about once out of every 3,000 births in the U.S., and affects both males and females. Though he has never been able to fully walk on his own, he has had the help of a tricycle for movement since the age of two. Jonathan has very little muscle, but what he lacks in strength he makes up for in endurance. At 19 years old he needs help with virtually all movement: getting on and off his bike, getting in and out of bed, eating, showering – all of the basic parts of life most people take for granted. He may not be able to write with a pen, but he uses a Palm Pilot to take notes during class, and is fully able to type his own papers on his computer.

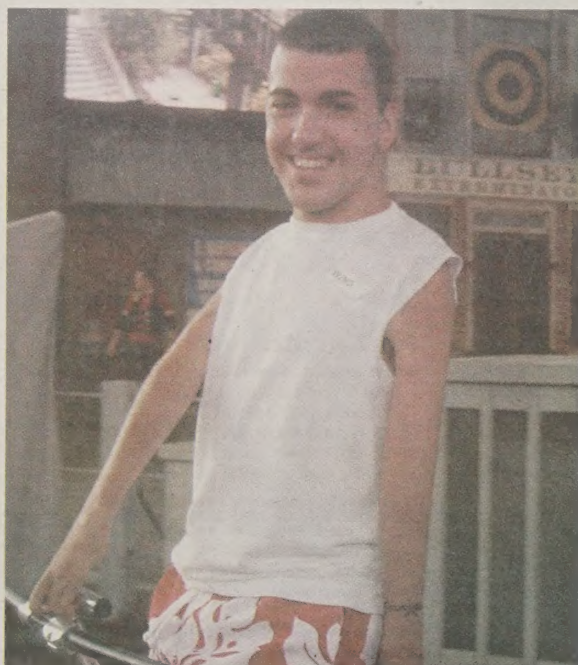
Studying to be a criminal investigator, Jonathan is a Psychology/Criminal Justice double

major. He compares his aspiring career to that of Clarice Starling, a character played by Jodie Foster in "The Silence of the Lambs." He takes five classes at Northern Essex, three online and two on the Haverhill campus. With hopes to transfer to a four year university, he holds an impressive 3.98 GPA, and says overall N.E.C.C. is a good school, especially the professors.

"A lot of my professors help out, doing things like coming to class early to help move around desks to accommodate me," says Diciaccio, "which was very much different than my high school."

However, repeated attempts to straighten out issues around campus Jonathan deals with have fallen on deaf ears. Ramps remain icy, making it more difficult for him to get up and down them, and handicapped doors have stayed broken months after complaining.

See Student page 9



Courtesy photo

Jonathan Diciaccio can be seen around NECC on his green tricycle.

Opinion

Safety, Security, and above all Truth

EDITORIAL

In light of recent events it seems that the policies we have as a school need to be updated. Northern Essex Community College, despite the best intentions it has, is behind the times when it comes to campus security.

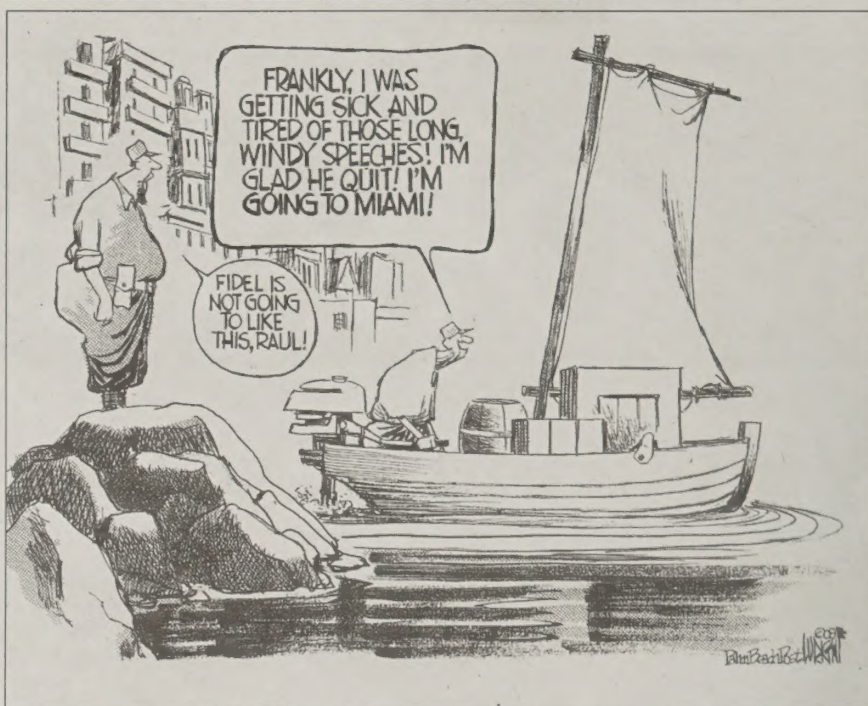
On the other hand as a school we must be careful not to impose ourselves on people's rights in an effort to gain a false sense of safety. In short what we need is balance. It seems that we are on the right track. The school has purchased new emergency notification software, and is currently beginning the process of implementing it. This is absolutely to be commended.

As per the Valentine's Day incident, it is safe to assume that in the

coming weeks we will all hear more about this. Many loose ends are still left untied and many facts need to be checked, it is too soon to pass judgment. That being said the nature of this incident leads to a "rumor mill" effect, and the school's unwillingness to come forward with more details is at best troubling when it seems that a simple disclosure of events could do much to restore faith in our community and its security.

Finally, if the security staff is expected to protect the students on campus from violent acts then some kind of reform should take place to quell some skepticism currently surrounds their abilities to do so.

One thing that can be agreed upon by all is the wish that no event like this should happen again.



KR campus cartoon

NECC Observer

The award-winning student newspaper of Northern Essex Community College

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# 13	Mar. 26	Mar. 19
# 14	Apr. 9	Apr. 2
# 15	Apr. 30	Apr. 23
# 16	May 7	Apr. 30

How to submit a letter to the Observer

The Observer welcomes letters from our readers. Letters for publication may be submitted via email, mail or by dropping off the letter at the newsroom, located in Rm. C-222 in the Spurk building.

All letters must be signed and also include a phone number for verification. Email submissions should include "Letter to Editor" in the subject line or risk not being received by the Observer email system.

We prefer submissions via email:
observer@necc.mass.edu
*Include "Letter to Editor" in the subject line.

But, if you wish to submit a letter via paper:

Letter to Editor, NECC Observer, 100 Elliot St., Haverhill, MA 01830

While we attempt to publish all letters, we reserve the right to edit or reject those received.

The NECC Observer is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, College Media Advisers Inc., the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, and the New England Press Association.

Roaming Reporter

In an emergency, do you trust Eagle Security to protect you?



Christian Ramos, Illustration
"No, they don't carry anything to defend us with. We need better security."



Heather Groder, Nursing
"They do well."



Katie Harris, History
"I think it would be good to trust the college security. Unfortunately, I haven't been present in the case of an emergency so I wouldn't know."

Photos/Interviews by Hansel Lopez



Lathon Jones Downing, Liberal Arts
"In matters of emergency they do their job".



Sam Follie, General Studies
"Given the size of the campus it's a mixed feeling. Individually no, but as a whole yes."



Shane Lee, Liberal Arts
"No, you can't really protect someone on an open campus."

Opinion

Who wants to become a hero?

The U.S. Army is waiting on you random American

HANSEL LOPEZ
Opinions Editor



Dear random American person in your late teens

Are you tired of your mediocre, boring, minimum wage, snail-paced, excuse

for a life? Are you tired of sitting in your mother's basement smoking weed? Are you fed up with New England weather? Are you tired of late fees at Blockbuster? Well the kind folks here at the U.S. Army have a once in a lifetime opportunity for you, an action packed roller coaster ride of a career in the army.

From aimlessly visiting third world countries to blasting evil terrorists in some Middle Eastern desert, the vague dream career you are probably aren't pursuing anyways is in the U.S. Army. Any job from fry cook to president of the

United States can be achieved via the army.

Just think about it, we offer you rolls of cash for college tuition, a place to sleep, inedible food, a gun, plenty of beer and like-minded peo-

ing for adrenaline deprived latchkey and disenfranchised youth to add to their casualty list. There are always evildoers out there for Uncle Sam to beat up on, nations not seeking out liberation or natural

“Make your family and basement dwelling friends proud and sign up. The best part is that for a limited time new signees will receive an ultra cool army baseball hat.”

ple for entertainment, and if you return home after serving overseas you might just get some medical attention as opposed to your current lack of insurance.

You can find one of our annoying recruiters at most places of social interest for teenagers. If you choose not to leave the comfort of your damp basement we'll be more than happy to mail this crap to you or have our recruiters call and talk you to death over the phone.

The U.S. Army is always look-

resources to acquire.

Make your family and basement dwelling friends proud and sign up. The best part is that for a limited time new signees will receive an ultra cool army baseball hat. So what are you waiting for, give us a call as soon as possible and join the no holds barred, super hardcore world of the U.S. Army.

P.S. Failure to join will result in adding you to the Axis of Evil and labeling you as an enemy of freedom.

QUOTES

“Don't be a fool and die for your country, let the other son of a bitch die for his.”

-George S. Patton

“Patriotism is the willingness to kill and be killed for trivial reasons.”

-Bertrand Russell

“War is not nice.”

-Barbara Bush

“Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel.”

-Samuel Johnson

“You're not to be so blind with patriotism that you can't face reality. Wrong is wrong no matter who does it or says it.”

-Malcolm X

“I don't know if God exists, but it would be better for his reputation if he didn't.”

-Jules Renard

LETTERS

Smoking ban response

The following is an open letter to President David Hartleb, it was also given to the Observer.

I wish to address the proposed ban of smoking on the NECC campuses.

I recall coming out class in Spurk building in the 1970s and holding my breath as long as possible as I rushed through hallways so filled with smoke one could hardly see. Faculty smoked in their offices and in committee meetings. It was especially distasteful to me as I had grown up in a non-smoking home—the very smell of tobacco set me on edge.

Thankfully we now ban smoking in all buildings. Nevertheless I question the pro-

posed policy of banning smoking from the entire campus. Some of our colleagues and students are addicted to nicotine. In the current anti-smoking ethos of our culture this presents a challenge for them, whether they are trying to quit or not. For NECC to prohibit smoking entirely it will impose on them an additional hardship with negligible benefit. Having to service their habit outdoors in a location removed from entrances used by us all protects us from second-hand smoke sufficiently. I can put up with a few molecules of smoke wafting by my nostrils with no real harm done to my lungs.

I urge President Hartleb and the Trustees to weigh carefully the wisdom of imposing additional restrictions on smoking on the campuses of NECC.

Respectfully,

James Gustafson

Professor of Philosophy, emeritus

Another smoking response

Perhaps because we are currently covering cause/effect analysis in my English Composition I courses, I can't help but wonder, with all due respect to President Hartleb, whether or not anyone has thought about the possible consequences of a complete smoking ban on campus.

People who smoke do so because smoking is highly addictive, therefore it is reasonable to conclude that a smoking ban will not prevent smokers from smoking. If they cannot smoke on campus, what will be the result? The logical conclusion is that they will simply go off campus to smoke, and I envision rows of cars and groups of smokers congregating on the roads that surround our campuses in order to get their “fix”. Students will be late for class; staff will need longer breaks — wouldn't it

simply make more sense to enforce the current smoking ban? After all, we are all adults here, and we can choose to avoid designated smoking areas if we are bothered by the smoke.

It is unfortunate that some members of the college community choose to ignore the posted no-smoking areas but, then again, people ignore rules and regulations every day. Drivers choose to ignore the speed limit; drivers choose not to yield; drivers turn left on red even though it is illegal — the list is endless. Do we then take away everyone's right to drive because some people ignore the rules? The campus-wide smoking ban is a fine idea in theory, but will it be a fine idea in practice?

Sincerely

Janet Clark

Faculty, English Department

Notable quotes response

“If God lived on earth, people would break his windows”

Why so? Because they know that His word is the trust. People's idea of showing there is no God is by Fight or angrier, the reason God is here and is above us and all around us is to show that there's more to life than throwing “things” threw people's windows causing them to break.

What would happen next if God (in people) lived on earth, would you attack Him what would that show, power, strength? No it shows weakness, it also shows that people don't have an understanding of who God is. If they truly knew God on a personal level they would know Love, caring, and an understanding of every life, is there. Heaven

is there and so is God, why must He be forgotten, when He made the world in which we live in everyday?

I always admired atheists. I think it takes a lot of faith. “if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith” How can you say it takes faith when faith is nothing when you don't have God in your life?” Faith seems to be used by Christians in one way ... it means simply Belief. If you don't have Belief then it does not take Faith it takes an act of pure laziness to not want to learn the word of God himself.

Sincerely

Katie Nikas

We want to hear from you.

Send letters or opinion columns to the NECC Observer:

observer@necc.mass.edu
Include “Opinion Editor” in subject line.

Opinion

What makes a death tragic?

The circumstances of a person's death affect its perception

AARON FOSS
News Editor



sometimes, can be darkly or ironically humorous.

The Darwin Awards take this bit of dark humor a bit further. They have a very popular set of books that in their own words "honor those who improve the human species by removing themselves from it." The series features stories of people who are devoid of common sense and end up costing themselves their own lives because of it. For example, people who walk down active railway tracks wearing headphones or a man who hid after hours at Sea World to sneak in and swim with the killer whales are some of the more memorable exits from this plane of existence I've read about.

Regardless of the stupidity surrounding their deaths, these people all died in horrible ways and ways I would deem tragic. The word tragic though is often times just a word that

goes along with death hand in hand as it is assumed by most people that all deaths are tragic. It is here that I disagree. Are all deaths tragic? I certainly think not. So what circumstances have to occur to have that word no longer apply?

A few examples seem obvious. If someone takes somebody else hostage and this results in their death by law enforcement, I don't see it as tragic at all, in fact it's one more person who was obviously a threat to the safety of the general public that is now gone. What about someone who is sentenced to death by a court for killing a half dozen people? What about a person involved in a high-speed car chase putting other drivers at risk, ending in a rollover and the steering column of the offending vehicle through their face?

I specifically wanted to address the issue of tragedy in regards to a specific event that has me angered. Everyone knows about the San Francisco Christmas Day tiger attack. All that has been talked about in regards to it for two months was that the fence walling in the enclosure was four feet short of the recommended 12 and half feet. All that has been talked about is the culpability of the zoo, and while not taking away the fact that the zoo is at fault for not following recommended guidelines, this attack was another example of stupidity playing a part in a person's death.

Carlos Sousa Jr. was killed and brothers Paul and Kulbir Dhaliwal were mauled by Tatiana, a 350-pound Siberian tiger when she escaped from her cage and climbed the enclosure.

After these "victims" were recovered enough to tell their story, they both admitted that they along with the deceased Sousa had all been smoking marijuana and drinking vodka. They admitted themselves, only after other witnesses came forward mind you, that they had indeed been yelling and waving at the tiger and had been climbing on the top of the enclosure's railing. Investigators have also released reports stating that the conduct of the victims is what they believe led to the attack resulting in the first place.

It's so good to see the tax dollars at work, right? Let's investigate together. Taunting a tiger results in the tiger attacking you. I'll say true on this one. Oh, look the investigation is over. I have heard in arguments people defending this guy with whatever hair-brained reason seems to suit them, most likely it always comes back to the fence being too low. The fence was too low, no one is disputing that. What is getting lost is that even with the inadequate enclosure, had these three mental defectives not been mocking Tatiana, that they wouldn't have been attacked. Short of being diagnosed as mentally retarded, a person at the age of 19 knows that a tiger is dangerous. If you can't agree with this, your opinion belongs in Market Basket next to the Charmin.

So before you find compassion for these "victims" let's go through their day. It's Christmas morning and having spent time with their families, Sousa and the Dhaliwals decide that instead of continuing in the festivities, they are going to the zoo. They consume vodka while driving there (Paul Dhaliwal's blood level was found to be twice the legal limit) and smoke marijuana. They enter the

zoo; drunk and stoned they proceed to find humor in taunting an animal rather than enjoying the majesty of a creature that faces extinction. The only reason that they engage in this behavior is that they believe the enclosure keeps them safe. We all know what happened after that.

He intended to provoke an animal he thought could not harm him into becoming agitated and for his own amusement. This resulted in the death of Tatiana, an animal who was provoked and ended up being killed because she followed thousands of years of natural instinct. Now that the attack has happened the zoo is facing potential fines, civil suits, and is in danger of closing permanently, taking away a place that is a valuable learning tool on ecology for the San Francisco community and forcing the owners to find new homes for dozens of other animals. These events are tragic in themselves.

Is the death of Carlos Sousa Jr. tragic? Absolutely not. Nor were the attacks of the Dhaliwal brothers. Just like the murderers, hostage takers, and high-speed risk takers I mentioned before, his death is not tragic because not only were his actions stupid, but also they were of an utterly malicious nature. This maliciousness is what separates his death from tragedy. Sousa's death was not only not tragic, but a beneficial event. From now on, everyone who wants to join him in mocking and provoking animals who already have a hard enough life in confinement, will keep "that guy who got eaten by the tiger" in the back of their mind. This may result in second thoughts on their part and a reprieve for the animals. The death of one derelict could keep

uncountable animals from being taunted and harassed.

If you think I'm being harsh, perhaps I am, but I think if I wanted to be harsh I say I wish there was a video someone took of this event so that the visual of Sousa being eaten alive and the audio of him screaming for his life could be played back and laughed at over and over again by the YouTube community. This would only reinforce what could happen in people's minds were they to take his same actions. I think harsh is when I say I would have stood by and watched with a smile on my face as his hands tried to hold in his intestines. Of course, that's all only if I wanted to be harsh.

It's only by complete chance that the events of that day weren't even worse. The people who provoked the tiger were attacked, but what if in its rage the tiger had attacked someone innocent? An elderly person unable to even run away or a toddler? These men would be looked at in a whole different way had they caused their actions caused the death of someone else and it's only by sheer chance that they didn't.

With local murders, worldwide genocides and people innocent of anything bad dying everyday, you will not and cannot make me feel that the self-caused death of a stoner with malice in his heart towards an animal is tragic. The only horrific death that day was of the animal itself. There are far more things in this world the word "tragedy" should be applied to, so think before you use it. Most deaths are tragic, but sometimes a person gets exactly what they are asking for.

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Opinion

Election races heat up

The race towards nomination is becoming more defined

BY CHRISTIAN STONE
Contributing Reporter



For those who do not follow politics or the upcoming election, allow me to fill you in. If by chance politics is your "cup of tea" then please, indulge me while I fill in the rest.

After a disappointing Super Tuesday a couple weeks back, Mitt Romney receded from the race to receive the Republican nomination, which makes Sen. John McCain as close to inevitable as can be. Runner up, Mike Huckabee trails by over six hundred delegate votes with less than one thousand yet to be selected. McCain believes it's mathematically impossible for Huckabee to receive the votes and states, "I'd like for him to withdraw today. It'd be a lot easier."

However, the Democratic bid is still very much a race worth picking up the paper for. Senator's

Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton have squared off verbally during both campaigns and face to face debates. Obama currently holds back Clinton by a macro sized lead of sixty-nine delegate votes, 1,319 to 1,250, after Obama's latest victories in both the Wisconsin and Hawaii primaries.

Obama apparently won over

TV ads proclaiming "Maybe he'd prefer to give speeches then have to answer questions." Wisconsin and Hawaii residents raised their voices on February 19th, and they said Obama. The race gets more interesting by the day. There is no clear advantage for either candidate in the race for the Democratic nomination. The next date for primaries is on March

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There is no clear advantage for either candidate in the race for the Democratic nomination.

the crowd when his latest speech was delivered to a struggling General Motors assembly plant in Wisconsin. His focus was economic development and "green energy" to help stabilize the work force, a break from health care, tax issues and mortgage-lending crisis which he had been addressing for months.

Although in Texas, Hillary still took a few shots at Barack's Wisconsin tactics: "I am in the solutions business, my opponent's in the promises business." Obama had refused a debate in Wisconsin, Hillary countered with

4th. That's when Rhode Island, Ohio, Texas and Vermont get their chance to advance their candidates to the front line.

Does Hillary have what it takes to pass Barack for the Democratic bid? Will Huckabee pull off an unthinkable comeback of historical proportion? I'd like to consider myself as one of those guys who sees the glass half full, but that glass is completely empty. There isn't even any liquid in it. Bone dry. Either way, we'll know more for sure on March 5th, until then, that's the latest on Election '08.

NECC roads not safe

Roads to exit college are not properly taken care of during winter

BY RYAN LEARNED
Contributing Reporter

Like the countless amount of students who attend this college, I commute in the horrid road conditions when snow hits the ground.

Since the first winter storm to hit our area, I have noticed a pattern in the roads that lead and exit to the college; they are deplorable in condition. Half of the road leading in may be plowed, while the other is still coated with a moderate layer of snow and sleet, just enough for danger. These roads include the roads leading in, and out of the parking lot, and even the lot itself is filled with a "slushy" mix. These conditions lead into a troubling amount of spin outs, "fish tails", and even collisions right outside of the college.

During my last day of finals in December, I was exiting the parking lot when the car traveling in front of me did a complete 360 degree spin; in return, I also did one after stepping on my break to avoid a collision.

To me it seems the men driving the plows don't even try once they come around to NECC, even during a 2 hour delay where they have even more time to

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To me it seems the men driving the plows don't even try once they come around to NECC.

plow the streets more thoroughly.

All of the students I interviewed shared the common bond of desiring reform in the procedures of clearing the roads. With that, I find it inexcusable on the part of those in charge of clearing our college's roads. I commute from Methuen to Haverhill almost everyday, and during winter road conditions, I find the roads in Methuen and Haverhill to be in much better shape than that outside of the college.

Until the subject is brought up to those in charge of clearing the streets, I do not expect to see reform in the procedures. My only word of advice at this time is to take extra caution, and be prepared for more dangerous conditions until the spring thaw.

Drugs may benefit the sick

Decriminalization of narcotics may be helpful

BY ALEX TRECARTIN
Contributing Reporter

For the purpose of bringing order to its people, a governing body must limit their freedoms. Sometimes, the government goes too far, stepping beyond its bounds to limit freedoms it was originally put in place to protect. The latest example of this is the government's hiring of telecom corporations to monitor communications across the country. While this is a recent development, and certainly an extreme one at that, there is another instance that dates back hundreds of years: the criminalization of narcotics. While wiretapping is an amendment on the Bill of Rights, and thus able to be amended out of existence, the usage of narcotics is not so easily dismissed. Narcotics happen to fall in the same category as alcohol and tobacco, and thus under our inalienable right to pursue happiness, as stated in the Declaration of Independence. Not only is the Declaration of Independence immune to any alterations from Congressional amendments, but it clearly states that our life, our liberty, and our pursuit of happiness are rights endowed by our Creator, a regulation that surpasses any man-made legislation.

Therefore, it only makes sense that it is our right as American citizens to put any substance into our bodies that we choose. After all, we're allowed to freely smoke cigarettes once we reach the age of legal accountability, despite their toxicity. The warning labels on each pack are there for a reason, much like the warning labels on rat poison and ammonia. As long as the side effects and health risks are made known and the products limited to legal adults, what else is there? Shouldn't we, as adults, be allowed to make these decisions

for ourselves? Shouldn't our own bodies and welfare be solely in our own hands, not the hands of government officials who still believe in medical myths from the 1950's?

If narcotics were legalized, extensive research could be performed, tests to determine the exact properties of each different drug. After all, cocaine is currently in use in the United States as a topical anesthetic, though its usage is very, very strictly limited. Opium is also being researched, to determine if it has any medical utility. Even heroin is used in research labs in Europe as a pain

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If narcotics were legalized, extensive research could be performed, tests to determine the exact properties of each different drug.

killer for terminal patients, due to its higher level of potency over morphine. In the United States, however, heroin is a Schedule I drug, making it impossible and illegal to do any meaningful research on the substance inside the country. Cannabis, in all of its forms, both narcotic and non-narcotic, is considered a Schedule I drug as well, though this has generated quite a bit of controversy due to its proven medical benefits for cancer patients. It's also been proven to be far less addictive than cocaine, heroin, and cigarettes, due to the fact that it can't become physically addictive (cravings, sweats, withdrawal) to the user, only mentally addictive (desire to get "high"). It's also nearly impossible to overdose, requiring the user to smoke in excess of a hundred pounds in fifteen minutes before reaching toxic levels.

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Bush to veto anti torture bill

*Congress passes bill but
Bush says he won't sign it*

BY AARON FOSS
News Editor

On February 13, Congress passed legislation to ban the use of harsh torture on U.S. detainees, including the controversial method of waterboarding. This is despite the fact that President Bush has said he would veto the bill.

The bill calls for the Central Intelligence Agency to adopt the US Army Field Manual, which forbids waterboarding and other types of coercive interrogation methods. The Democrat led Senate voted 51-45 in favor of the bill, but fell short of the two-thirds majority needed to overcome a presidential veto.

Waterboarding is a method of torture in which the victim is restrained while water is poured over their face repeatedly to simulate drowning. Another form is where a wet rag is placed over the nose and mouth for a prolonged period of time. Forms of waterboarding have been used since the Spanish Inquisition. Bush claims that the use of waterboarding is necessary in places like Guantanamo Bay, where hundreds of detainees have been held for years without trial. On February 6, CIA director

General Michael Hayden admitted that the CIA had engaged in the use of waterboarding on Al-Qaeda suspects Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, Abu Zubayda, and Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri during 2002 and 2003.

President Bush signed an executive order banning torture during interrogation of terror suspects last summer, but the guidelines of what constitutes torture have been a subject of debate since then. The order does not specifically ban waterboarding. It refers to torture as defined by 18 USC 2340, which includes "the threat of imminent death," as well as the U.S. Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

In a recent controversial interview with the Matt Frei of the BBC, Bush stated "I ask them this: when we, within the law, interrogate and get information that protects ourselves and possibly others in other nations to prevent attacks, which attack would they have hoped that we wouldn't have prevented?"

"The United States will act within the law. We'll make sure professionals have the tools necessary to do their job within the law," Bush added.

Stephen Bradbury, head of the justice department's office of legal counsel, gave evidence to a congressional committee stating for the first time waterboarding is indeed illegal. The Bush senior official said, "Let me be clear: There has been no determination by the justice department that the use of waterboarding, under any circumstances, would

be lawful under current law." Other prominent people have come out as saying that waterboarding should be banned. In an interview last month, former Homeland Security Department secretary Tom Ridge said, "One of America's greatest strengths is the soft power of our value system and how we treat prisoners of war, and we don't torture. I believe, unlike others in the administration, that waterboarding was, is, and will always be torture. That's a simple statement." Ridge served the Homeland Security Department from 2003 to 2005.

Senator John McCain is the leading Republican presidential candidate and an author of previous anti-torture legislation, as well as a torture victim himself during the Vietnam War. Despite calling waterboarding a "very exquisite torture", McCain voted against the overall intelligence bill. He stated before the vote "I made it very clear that I think that waterboarding is torture and illegal, but I will not restrict the CIA to only the Army Field Manual." The new provision would require the CIA to comply with Army rules on questioning detainees, which forbid eight methods including waterboarding, forced nudity, electric shock, use of dogs and mock executions.

Bush also said to Frei in the BBC interview that "history will judge the decisions made during this period of time as necessary decisions."

CAMPUS BRIEFS

"In Darfur" to open on April 17

The play "In Darfur" by Winter Miller will be performed April 17, at 12:00 and 7:30 pm by the Top Notch Players. The play will feature Kim Cote, Micheal Johnson, Sarah Argenbright, and Clare Ostrander among others. "In Darfur" is the account of three intertwined lives at a camp for internally displaced persons in Darfur. The story follows an aid worker's mission to save and protect lives, a journalist's pursuit to deliver a story and a Darfuri woman's quest for her own safety. The play will be performed in the Top Notch Theater located in the Spurr Building.

Notetaker signs will no longer be posted outside classrooms

Students will be taking a more active role in recruiting their own Notetakers. Students have been given "recruitment slips" to hand to potential Notetakers. Additional recruitment strategies have been discussed with students. Some benefits Notetakers are being offered to encourage them to sign up are:

- Notetakers do not have to be enrolled in the course

- Earn cash while on campus \$125 per course.

- Add experience to their resume.

- Receive community service credit.

- Be involved in the College community.

- Help peers and fellow classmates.

Please call us at ext. 3654, if you are interested in becoming involved as a notetaker.

Journalist, Irish Affairs expert to speak at NECC

Internationally recognized journalist Kevin Cullen will share his observations of today's Ireland in a lecture "A Terrible Beauty: Ireland in the 21st Century" during Northern Essex Community College's White Fund lecture on Sunday, March 2, at 2 p.m. in the White Fund Room at 78-82 Amesbury St., in the Louise Haffner Fournier Education Center in Lawrence.

Cullen lived in Ireland experiencing its people and culture, first as a student and then as a journalist. Cullen has worked for The Boston Globe since 1985. He completed several stints in the Globe's investigative unit, the Spotlight Team, and was part of the team that exposed mobster James "Whitey" Bulger as an informer who was protected by the FBI.

Does your campus organization or office have something to announce in Campus Briefs? Please e-mail information to observer@necc.mass.edu. Be sure to include "campus news brief" in the subject line.

Valentine's security scare

Continued from Page 1

"I was more than upset with the way things were handled. When the teacher first went to the security office and told them she had been threatened, they didn't really seem to understand the severity of what was going on," said Sasha Abbott a student in the class.

When asked if she believed the school was attempting to cover up the incident Abbott responded, "I absolutely think they are. None of the teachers were informed of it, they basically blew it off. I left that day because I was afraid he would come

back, being in that situation was the scariest thing I've ever had to deal with at school before."

Hartleb feels that school's account of events represents the situation accurately.

"The college has put a lot of time and effort into trying to deal with this issue in ways I am just not at the liberty to talk about. We have no interest in covering this up," said Hartleb, "Anyone who feels that way should come and see me."

Hartleb also went on to say that as of February 25 he had not had a chance to speak with the head of security, William Blouin, regarding the incident.

But this will not likely bring any comfort to

Sasha Abbott who summed up her own feelings like this, "I really want the issue to be well known. I want the students to know, the teachers to know, I want everyone to know. It's not fair that we were all put into that situation and now they are trying to cover it up like it didn't even happen. I have a family... and I want to know that I am going to go home to hug them tomorrow."

As of this time, according to the Haverhill police report, the student has been suspended from the college and a No Trespass Order has been placed on him until his, "Behavior has stabilized."

NECC forms Safety Response team

BY ROBIN CZIFRIK
Contributing Reporter

The recent surge in campus violence is forcing college administrators nationwide to rethink and or restructure their emergency response systems, and make necessary changes in an attempt to keep their college communities as safe as possible.

"In many cases, we were doing this already," said Mary Ellen Ashley, executive vice president of NECC, who has been serving on the Board of Higher Education's Violence Prevention Task Force as the Community College Representative for about a year and is also chair of the newly formed Campus Safety Response Team.

The 24-member response team, which held its first meeting weeks ago, consists of three focused subcommittees - Threat Assessment, Communications, and Training and its membership includes faculty and staff from throughout the NECC community, including the Lawrence campus and Eagle Security.

Hard facts indicate that violence in today's world - including at our educational institutions - is a real problem that must be faced. We no longer have the option to judge potential violence on our own campuses as "unlikely" events that "can't happen here." Violence is everywhere.

There have been at least five fatal shootings on college campuses in the U.S. since April 2007, when Virginia Tech student Cho Seung-Hui, 23, went on a deadly rampage, killing 32 people and injuring more than a dozen before committing suicide. It is considered the worst mass killing in U.S. history.

This month, there were two fatal college campus shootings in the U.S. On Feb. 8, 23-year-old student Latina Williams shot and killed two students in an emergency medical technology class at Louisiana Technical College before turning the gun on herself. Six days later, 27-year-old graduate Steve Kazmierczak, armed with multiple guns, opened fire in a Northern Illinois University lecture hall, killing five students and wounding 18 others before taking

his own life.

Just how safe are we at NECC? Though Human Services student Verve "Mitch" Mitchell feels safe here, he realizes the potential for danger exists. "We all think something like that couldn't happen here, but look at 9/11," said Mitchell. "We never thought that something like that could happen on our soil so, yes - I guess it can happen here. It can happen anywhere. Who's to say?"

According to U.S. Dept. of Education campus crime and security statistics, in three years time - 2002 through 2004 - there were 7,388 illegal weapons possession arrests and 1,148 of these arrests were at public 2-year colleges like NECC.

Aggravated assault cases were also astonishingly high - a total of 24,642 cases were reported in the same 2002 through 2004 time span, and 3,814 of these took place at public 2-year colleges.

There is a thin line administrators must walk when deciding just how far they should go in their attempt to create safer environments. "I want to be careful that we're not looking like Big Brother," said Ashley. "You want to be safe but don't want to infringe on people's rights."

Ashley said although the Campus Safety Response Team has held just one meeting, things are well under way and progress is being made. NECC has already purchased an emergency notification system, and its implementation will be top priority of the Communications Committee, chaired by Ron Taber, assistant vice president of Marketing Communications.

Ashley also said that before the Communications Committee can get the emergency notification system up and running, the team must first determine specifics regarding the notification of students, faculty, and staff by collecting data such as preferred method of contact for each individual - by cell phone, for example.

A protocol of just when the campus community will be notified also needs to be developed. A crisis protocol information card will be distributed upon development by the Threat Assessment Committee,

which is co-chaired by Nita Lamborghini, assistant dean of Student Life and Marie McDonnell, director of the Learning Accommodations Center.

The Threat Assessment Committee will develop and implement procedures for reporting investigating, and assessing problems that occur and will also be documenting them. According to Ashley, the idea is to "set an institutional record so we can be watchful."

The Training Committee, chaired by Judith Kamber, dean of Faculty and Staff Development, is busy researching training and conference information and is currently looking into speakers for campus-wide trainings and seminars.

Many Massachusetts colleges began implementing their emergency notification systems many months ago, as part of a Massachusetts Board of Higher Education initiative stemming from Governor Deval Patrick's response to the Virginia Tech tragedy last spring.

Bill Blouin, chief of NECC's Eagle Security and a member of the Communications Committee, thinks the Campus Safety Response Team is a great idea. "It's encouraging," he said. "We're going in the right direction."

Because Sanabria is legally blind, he currently finds himself in a tougher situation than most. "If people are running, I might not know it," he said. He hopes the new Emergency Alert System will not leave him inaccessible in the event of an emergency. "Text would not work for me. It would have to be voice automated," said Sanabria.

At this point, it is unclear whether the system will be text message only or if people will have the option of voice automated telephone calls, but students hope that people will not be left in the dark in an emergency situation.

Though Sanabria thinks NECC new system sounds like a good thing, he knows that incidents can't always be avoided. "It doesn't matter how much you prepare for a situation. Plan for the worst, hope for the best, and hope it never happens," he said.

News

National News



Compiled by the Observer staff
from AP wire reports

Many Americans
changing faiths

CHICAGO- Many U.S. Roman Catholics and Protestants are leaving the churches of their childhood and either choosing other faiths or no religion at all, according to an extensive survey released Monday.

More than a quarter, or 28 percent, of American adults said they have left the faith in which they were raised, according to the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life.

About 16 percent of Americans say they are not members of any religious group, making the "unaffiliated" group the fourth largest religious tradition in the United States, rivaling the number of members in mainline Protestant churches.

The three largest religious traditions are Protestant evangelicals at 26 percent, Catholics at 24 percent and mainline Protestants at 18 percent.

The Catholic Church has lost more members than any other religious group, the survey found, with about 10 percent of all Americans reporting they have left.

Those losses, however, largely have been replaced by Catholic immigrants entering the country, Pew researchers said. As a result, the total percentage of the U.S. population that identifies as Catholic has remained fairly stable.

In a shift that could significantly alter the nation's religious fabric, the study also found a sharp decline in American Protestantism — that "the United States is on the verge of becoming a minority Protestant country."

Students return to
NUI for the first time
since shooting

CHICAGO- On a gray, icy Monday morning, students began circulating on the Northern Illinois University campus shortly before 8 a.m. classes for the first time since the Feb. 14 shooting that claimed the lives of five students.

In a lot of ways they looked normal — headphones in ears, cell phones pressed to heads, bags slung over shoulders.

Except for brief glances they largely ignored the police tape that still encircles Cole Hall, the scene of the shooting, and the vast memorials of flowers and balloons planted in the snow and ice.

Even as the morning wore on and foot traffic increased, students described the mood as subdued.

"But it's good to see people back here," said Jeff Brown, 35, a senior history major from Sugar Grove. "On the surface things may eventually look normal, but this will stick around for the rest of the semester and the university community was challenged to take a stand."

Student Senate wants you

Many upcoming
events have been
planned

BY JAMES HEALEY
Contributing Reporter

If asked, most of the student body at Northern Essex would tell you they knew there was a Student Senate on campus. Most, however, would not know what they accomplish or even when they meet.

"We are the voice of the rest of the student body," said Ed Burke, Senate Treasurer.

A voice that is usually heard silently, if not at all. Most usually only hear about the negative via the news or gossip around campus.

The most recent case of negative exposure happened last semester as the Observer reported that certain members of the senate were unhappy with their experience. Most of the other members were upset about those comments and the fact that it wasn't

the majority that felt that way.

"The other members didn't have a chance to respond," said Burke. "They had other agendas."

Even though they did receive negative exposure from that article, most of the members agree that it was the spark needed to improve the Senate.

To improve the image of the senate, they are trying to get more exposure around the campus through many events. They have already participated in the Winterfest on February 6, as well as selling roses on Valentine's day.

They also many other events coming, including a collaboration with the Community Outreach Group for a talent show that will happen next month. A Spring Jam in April for both campuses, as well as the Used Book Sale on April 2 are also planned.

"We are trying to get people to know about the senate and get people involved in the senate," said Burke.

To get people involved, the senate has set up an office in the B building. While it is still under renovation and unmanned at most times (due to vary-

ing scheduling conflicts between the members), they are working on opening the doors for everyone to voice their concerns whenever they need to.

The senate meets once a week in the Library basement in room A112, as well as at the Lawrence campus in Room L240. Meetings are open to the public, but the senate notices that each week, not many people come in.

There are many ways to address your concerns to the senate. If you see one of the members around campus, you can address your concerns to them. Members include President Brenda Caunter, Vice President of the Haverhill campus Babak Alian, Vice President of the Lawrence campus Migdalia Bachman, Secretary Colleen O'Shaughnessy, Treasurer Edward Burke, Sara Adams, Michael Keebaugh, Moises Santana, Ethan Santiago, Juan Sigaran. Dina Brown and Jana Lamberti are the current faculty advisors for the senate.

The Senate is also planning on suggestion boxes around both campuses, as well as an online suggestion form.

Students reflect on trip to
Holocaust Museum in D.C.Contemporary
Affairs Club affected
by visit

BY DIANNELLY ANTIGUA
Contributing Reporter

Members of the Contemporary Affairs Club reminisced about their recent trip to Washington, D.C. during their weekly meeting in room C203.

Although attending the Conservative Political Action Conference, members did some site seeing in the National Mall area, visiting such places as the White House, the Lincoln Memorial, the Museum of Natural History, the Jefferson Memorial, and the Air and Space Museum.

But one place seemed to speak volumes to the members: the Holocaust Museum. They did not just visit the museum knowing that the central theme this semester at the college was genocide. They went to

remember the millions of Jewish people who were slaughtered at the order of Adolph Hitler. "Every time I visit D.C., I feel the need to go," said president of the Contemporary Affairs Club, Danielle Rigo-Reilly, referring to the museum. This was her third time attending the Holocaust Museum, but the experience has not grown old yet. She still enjoys walking through the exhibits, soaking in the experience and learning new things about the Holocaust. "It's an entirely new perspective than history books," continued Rigo-Reilly.

Henry Kruschwitz, also a member of the Contemporary Affairs Club, reflected on the overall emotion in the museum. "It was intense for some people," he said. "I looked around and saw them just crying."

Both Professor Barbara Stachniewicz and Professor Gerry Morin accompanied the students on their venture through Washington, D.C. They were equally moved by the intensity of the museum com-

menting on the dark rooms of the exhibits, which much reminded them of the dark and severe nature of this time in history.

What struck, Professor Stachniewicz most was the suitcases put on display right outside one of the real train cars used to transport the victims to the concentration camps. "They didn't know where they were going, so they packed everything," she said, mentioning the countless clothes, silverware, and cookware on display. Other shocking exhibits included the room piled with thousands of shoes belonging to the victims. Before they were sent to the gas chambers, the victims were ordered to take off their clothing including their shoes, which remain as a memorial to their lives.

Outside of the Holocaust exhibits was an area devoted to the recent genocide in Darfur. To Professor Stachniewicz, this was a wake up call. To her, genocide is still alive and killing the lives of millions: "It's not just the past."

Daycare worker finds child
unattended in car

Security Log

With the help of Eagle Security, this security log has been released to inform students and staff about the incidents requiring assistance of Eagle Security at the NECC campuses in Haverhill and Lawrence.

This log covers events from

both Haverhill and Lawrence campuses from Feb. 1 to Feb. 18.

Feb. 5, 2008 - An arriving daycare worker found an unattended child in a running vehicle in the parking lot of the Franklin Street campus. Security was notified and the father was found inside dropping off an older child.

Feb. 6 - Road rage incident reported at 3pm on Haverhill campus.

Feb. 12 - The rear window of a vehicle in lot 3 on the Haverhill campus was reportedly smashed. Incident remains under investigation.

Feb. 13 - Lawrence police responded to the Franklin street campus for a 911 hang up from the front office. Everything was found to be under control.

Feb. 14 - Police were called to the Haverhill campus when a student reportedly threatened a professor in the C building. Incident remains under investigation.

Feb. 15 - A pregnant woman became ill during class on the Franklin street campus. Security called an ambulance and the woman was taken to the hospital for treatment.

World News



Compiled by the Observer staff
from AP wire reports

Cubans react to Raul
Castro in power

HAVANA-The scene played out in living rooms around Havana: a fond memory for the good early days of the revolution, followed by a pointed stab at today's bitter realities.

There was praise for the revolution's accomplishments and skepticism about whether Raul Castro, elected by the legislature as the country's new president, can ever make life better.

These are the voices that echo throughout Cuba, the ones that keep getting louder. The ones that hope that with a new president, someone hears them.

"I've grown up with Fidel Castro. He's all I've known," said Maria, 42, a heavyset woman with her hair pulled back in a scarf. "I'm a Fidelista, and I have great affection for him. But you can't survive on what they pay you here, and a lot of the housing is in terrible shape, and the young people are so restless to get out."

She said she was faithful to the Castros because of the free education and health care that their revolution has provided, but added that some things need to change, like the travel restrictions and the economy.

Maria has hope in her country's new leader, the 76-year-old defense minister known as a nuts-and-bolts problem solver. Fidel was a man of ideas, she explained, but his brother is a man of practical talents.

"He's not as political as Fidel Castro, and he will be able to fix some of the things in the economy," she said. "He's the kind of person who sees a problem and makes should happen under a different kind of system."

Nations react to
Kosovo

PRISTINA, Kosovo — The self-declared nation of Kosovo won recognition from the United States and Europe's major powers Monday, much-needed ballast for its decision to break free of Serbia.

The support sparked another night of ear-splitting elation in this capital and a second round of recrimination from the political elite in Belgrade and their powerful allies in Moscow.

The differences over Kosovo promised to erode already complicated relations among Russia, the United States and Western powers.

China strongly opposed the move and Russia's parliament released a statement Monday condemning Kosovo's declaration of independence, which means a loss of 15 percent of Serbia's territory. Serbia ordered home its ambassadors in the U.S., France and Turkey as rebukes for recognizing the tiny new nation of 2 million people.

Thousands of Serbs marched Monday in the tense northern city of Mitrovica; another large crowd gathered in peaceful protest by an ancient Serb monastery.

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Maureen Saliba— Haverhill Campus, D104, X3718

*A part of the Student Engagement Center; an element of College Life and Healthy
Living Unit, Division of Enrollment Management and Student Services.
To request a sign language interpreter please call 978-556-3897 (V/TTY)*

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Features

Student works to overcome disability

Continued from Page 1

"It's frustrating," says Linda Rosano, Jonathan's mother, "when a student goes to a higher level for his problems, and gets no satisfaction." She says Jonathan is a stereotypical character, who people tend to take advantage of.

When it comes to his family, however, a glow begins to shine around his face. His mom, Linda, is his biggest supporter. She takes him to school, makes sure he gets to class, and is there when class ends to pick him up. Although she admits it is a lot of lifting, you can hear the love and joy she holds for her son when she speaks.

"I help him get situated," she says, "and sometimes when I can't make it to help him on time I worry about him." Linda's only other hope is that Jonathan can meet new friends here at school to hang out with, specifically other men who can look past his disability and see him for who he is.

His condition may separate him from other students, but Jonathan has common interests with his peers. He listens to a variety of music, reads, and plays the piano. He attends movies, and up until a couple of years ago volunteered at an old age home, where he helped out with the elderly by reading, talking, and spending time with them. He held a job at Best Buy where his charming personality made him so popular customers

would come in and request to make their purchase from him. Jonathan and his family were also part of a Boston Herald article which featured two UMass Lowell engineering students who designed and built his bike for him.

When it comes to talking about his condition, Jonathan speaks with emotion, yet with insight far beyond his age. "Whenever I feel down and depressed I think to myself that there's always someone out there worse off than me," he says. And despite his disability, he says he knows he can achieve his goals.

It's a proven fact that people born with Arthrogryposis usually have high to superior intelligence. He may not speak much out loud during class, his soft spoken voice prevents him from shouting over 30 people, but one on one he is a pleasure to talk to, always smiling and laughing. Sometimes in the commotion of life, we take for granted the simplest tasks. Jonathan is a power of example in that because he needs help with life's simplest actions, he doesn't let it get in the way of doing what's right for him and others. There's a life lesson in Jonathan's story, and it's called gratitude. It's easy to get ungrateful, but take Jonathan's words—"there's always someone out there worse off" and remind yourself to be grateful for what you have, and no matter how bad life gets it could always be worse."

Gupta on nukes

Dr. Amit Gupta visited NECC to lecture on nuclear weapons

By DANIEL A. POTOCKI
Editor in Chief



As part of NECC's on going genocide series the Contemporary Affairs Club was lucky enough to get Dr. Amit Gupta, a visiting professor in the

Department of International Security at the U.S. Air Force Air War College, to come and speak on the issue of nuclear war.

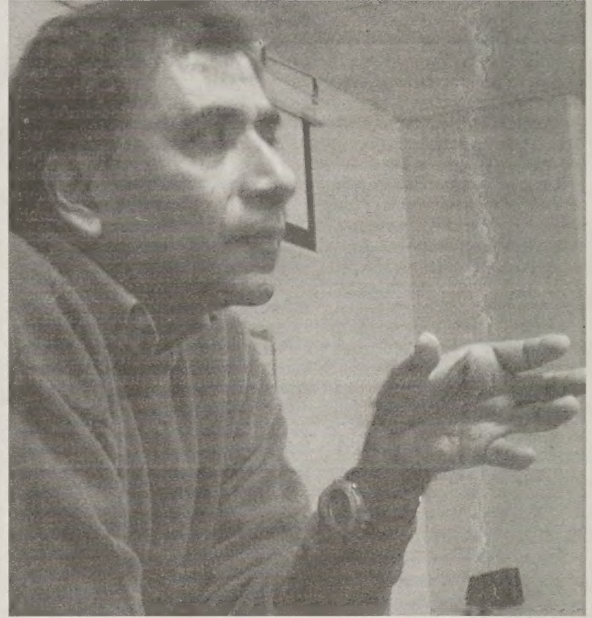
Dr. Gupta's lecture focused on the history of nuclear warfare, as well as its possible implications in future conflicts.

"One of the dumbest ideas in the world is nuclear war," said Gupta.

He went on to explain that by targeting the major cities only a hand full of nuclear weapons would be needed to send a country back to the stone age.

"One nuclear event sets a country back 10 to 15 years," said Gupta.

Dr. Gupta finished his presentation by saying that nuclear weapons



Daniel Potocki photo

Dr. Amit Gupta mixes humor and intelligence to give a moving lecture.

are not the end of the arms race.

"Nukes are technology born in 1945. We as a society have bypassed this level of weapon," said Gupta.

Dr. Gupta speculates that the next round of arms race will take

place in space, and that so called, "Star Wars" technologies, energy weapons in space, are the weapon of the future.

Dr. Gupta is the author of "Building an Arsenal" and other books.

Washington DC from young eyes

By ARTEMIS SAVORY
Features Editor

On the train to D.C. the dining cabin had finally emptied enough for Lathan Jones-Downing and this journalist to move up front. Beside Jones-Downing sat a man wearing a gray sweatshirt with "Suffolk" printed across the chest. His hat looked to be made of cotton and therefore warm. He sipped now and then from his bottle of Samuel Adams while working on a crossword puzzle. Suddenly he turned to Jones-Downing and asked where he was going. "A CPAC Convention." Jones-Downing replied, surprised by the stranger's question. The man was suddenly interested. He then asked, "What do you think is the most important issue?" Jones-Downing thought for a minute.

"Stem cell research, because they're using dead fetuses and embryos." The man kept asking questions until, finally, he laughed at Jones-Downing confused look and apologized. Introducing himself as Stephen Moore, he said that he had graduated from Suffolk with a Master's Degree in Political Science and had also helped run "Hillary 2000." Jones-Downing admired Moore's idea for giving back to the community he teaches chess in several schools in New York City. This was the first of the many fascinating people Jones-Downing would meet on this trip.

Jones-Downing woke up at six in the morning and left the hostel for

CPAC. Before going into the building, his curiosity got the better of him, and he walked around to the back of the building, the OmniHotel, to see what it looked like. While back there, he saw two regular looking people who told him to leave. He found this strange, and just as he was about to leave, he saw President Bush step out of the van and froze. He was about to pull out his camera from his pocket, when he looked at the normally dressed people and realized that any sudden movements could prove fatal. So, most likely saving his own life, he waved instead. Bush turned and saluted to him.

Jones-Downing listened to Bush as he talked about how he is not ashamed of what he has done, and he said, "I truly believe I'm here to protect America."

The surprises kept coming. Jones-Downing woke up early on Friday morning and went with a group to the White House. Although he had not signed up ahead of time, Jones-Downing was desperate to get in. He told the people at the door that he was his school's Presidential Student Ambassador, and the doorman looked at him for a while, thinking. Then he asked for Jones-Downing's I.D. and license, asked for his Social Security Number, went away for a while and returned. That day, Jones-Downing was allowed to enter the White House with less than an hour's notice.

Saturday, Jones-Downing stayed at the hostel. His ankles were throbbing

from all the walking the day before. Alone and bored, he hobbled his way to the C.V.S. down the street. On his way there, he passed a homeless man who was sitting on someone's steps and begging for change. Having mastered the commanding "no" that was so often required with the many parasitic beggars along the streets of D.C., he was prepared to deny this man as well. But as he was walking by, he remembered what someone had told him once—that she wanted to one day take a homeless person out to eat and ask about his life. He went back.

Sitting down next to the man, Jones-Downing asked for his story. The man said that he had lived during the civil rights movements and he was one of the guys in line who got hit with the firehose. He said it hurt like hell and made visible the everlasting bruise on his side. He'd also come face-to-face with Strom Thurman who he said was "the worst white racist prick" he'd ever met.

The man talked about being past friends with Nicky Barnes (Mr. Untouchable) in middle school. When Jones-Downing asked why the man was where he was, the man told him it was all because of cocaine. Because of it, his wife left him, his kids were taken by social services, and his family disowned him.

He looked at Jones-Downing and said, "You look like you're very young boy. Just stay the hell away from drugs." Then he said, "When



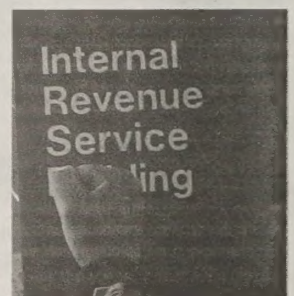
Artemis Savory photo

Everywhere he goes, Lathan Jones-Downing is drawn to the symbols of the United States of America.

you become famous I want you to come back and see me and we'll write a book."

Jones-Downing put in, "We'll call it 'The Stoop.'"

The man's parting words were "Don't let whitey get the fool grip around your throat." By this point, the friendly student ambassador offered the man some change, but was declined. "Dude, your time was good enough," He said with finality.



Features

Contemporary Affairs goes to D.C.

The D.C. trip offers more than memories

BY ARTEMIS SAVORY
Features Editor

The Contemporary Affairs Club left for Washington D.C. on the night of Wednesday, Feb. 6. From there they drove to a bus station in Newburyport, where they boarded a fancy bus that permitted neither food nor drink. The bus drove them into Boston, and then they boarded a train. Eight hours later, they arrived in Washington D.C.

While there, the members attended CPAC, the Conservative Political Action Conference, the designated purpose for the trip. At \$25 per student, the price seemed reasonable—at first. At this convention one could listen to Romney, McCain, and later, President Bush, speak. In a large room, exhibitions had been raised, some featuring radio stations, others were anti-liberal stands, there were a few private groups, and many companies offered internships. The free Internet access was well liked, but may have been the greatest feature offered to some. The room was clustered with liberal and Hillary-bashers; a bumper sticker read: "Liberal: Someone so open-minded that their brains have fallen out," and Hillary-headed donkeys flocked on an azure tablecloth.

The incredible "Concerned Women for America" is anti-abortion, protests gay rights, and is trying to outlaw pornography.

The conference was a letdown for many Contemporary Affairs members. Former Contemporary Affairs president, David Coman-Hidy commented that the conference had been "depressing" due to "the thinly veiled homophobia and racism."

"I personally didn't like it," said Vice President Joe Donlon of the Contemporary Affairs Club, "I thought it was a little B.S."

Tom Bowling, on the other hand, considered CPAC from a conservative's standing point. Bowling said that the convention, "offered a good view of how politics work. "It

offered a lot of opportunity to young people . . . it obviously catered to more conservative young people." He also said, "Some (exhibits) weren't even all that conservative, like the American Civil Liberties Union."

Lathan Jones-Downing also had a positive view of the conference. "The CPAC was wonderful. I thought it was informative on certain things," he said, "It helped me to learn a lot about republicans and conservatives."

The club stayed at the International Hostel, which was near to several subway stations and not far from the White House. The hostel was nice; far from a large room with rickety cots spread across the stained rug, three rooms were rented—two for the guys and one for the girls. The beds were nice, the doors were kept locked, and the club was just about the only people on the floor, giving them nearly private access to the lavatories.

Most of the club branches off, each going his or her own way. The Smithsonian Museums were scoured: the Museum of History (containing dinosaur bones, shining crystals and rubies, and stuffed animals from all over the world); the Museum of Fine Arts (with some outside structures, including a giant rusted spider); and so on. Visited also were the impeccable Holocaust Museum, with its powerful metal detectors, forbidding of picture-taking, and dead-silent crowds among the exhibitions.

Some members of the club also visited the Supreme Court, the Capitol Building, and the White House. Dinners were expensive and confusing, and traveling as one near to impossible.

Chaperoning the trip, so to speak, were faculty members Barbara Stachniewicz, Gerry Morin, Meredith Gunning, Stephen Russell, and Andrew Morse. A total of around 17 students from NECC went on the trip, including from the Contemporary Affairs Club: President Danielle Rigo-Reilly, Vice President Joe Donlon, and Secretary Chris Simon; Presidential Student Ambassador Lathan Jones-Downing was also present.



The Lincoln Memorial blushes at the end of a long day of walking and picture-taking. Dots of people flock to its stairs, even after nightfall.



Photos taken by Artemis Savory

One fact of any city, even Washington D.C., is the number of homeless people living there. This person has built for himself a home from an assortment of objects to keep him warm and dry.



The Capitol Building is amazing with its marble staircases, twisting railings, and large wooden doors.



The Vietnam Memorial offers shadows of the past.



The monument, often dubbed "The Phallic symbol" of D.C.

Arts & Entertainment

Student art reviewed by recruiters

Students find out where they stand with local art schools

BY SARA CODAIR

Arts and Entertainment Editor

For a short period of time, the walls in the third floor hallway of the C-building were no longer bare, but covered with colorful student art.

The reason for this was Portfolio Review Day, and three prominent art colleges, Montserrat College of Art, New Hampshire Institute of Art, and Massachusetts College of Art and Design were reviewing the portfolios of many students.

Samantha McCarthy, a visual arts major, had her portfolio reviewed by NH Institute of Art, a school she hopes to transfer to.

"I never applied anywhere but here and I wanted to know if I could get into an art school if I applied," said McCarthy. "The art rep told me I had a good concept of value and perspective, and I have my own style in photography."

McCarthy said self-portrait, a charcoal drawing, is one of her best pieces. McCarthy said that she really likes drawing, and did not take any art classes until she came to Northern Essex.

"I'm just starting out, but I'm more confident now than I was before the review," said McCarthy.

Ripley Doten was waiting to get her photos by NH art institute.

"I hadn't thought of art school before, but I'm starting to like the idea more and more," said Doten. "I really like photography, it's a passion that I'd like to pursue."

Biff Ward, who teaches photo classes, was there to help the event go smoothly and offer support his students.

"This is an opportunity for the

students to get feedback from schools with very good reputations," said Ward. "However, it's not just about the feedback, sometimes they can get recruited. I knew a student who got recruited on the spot and got a scholarship based on merit."

Veronica Gould was taking her pictures down from one wall and moving them to another, she had finished getting her work reviewed by Mass Art.

"I just want input," said Gould. Gould is not sure if she wants to go to art school or not, but she said she appreciates the feedback.

According to Helen Zukerbrod, this event is a great opportunity for people like Gould.

"This is a way to help people develop a perspective on a college," said Zukerbrod. "People come from all different stages. If someone is not sure about the school, we can give them a perspective, and support what their teachers tell them."

Evan Antone was hanging up his art after Gould left. Antone was at the event because he is taking a portfolio class.

"It's good to get feedback from people who know what they are talking about," said Antone, who is a Fine Arts major.

Lindsay McCulloch, one of the professors who organized the event said "I think it's going great. All three schools have already seen a lot of students and a lot of the feed back has been positive."

According to McCulloch, Montserrat College of Art, New Hampshire Institute of Art, and Massachusetts College of Art and Design were chosen because they are the top schools art students' transfer to; they have great graphics and visual arts programs and are geographically pleasing.

According to Zukerbrod, the event is beneficial for both the students and the college.

"For us it's a way to meet stu-



Sara Codair photo

Ripley Doten looks at the work of another student while she waits for a representative from Mass Art to be available to review her photography portfolio.

dents who are interested in mass art and develop a relationship with them. We can be on the look out for the application."

While some schools will accept students on the spot at portfolio reviews, Mass Art does not.

"We never accept students on the spot, we encourage them to go through the application process," said Zukerbrod.

Another benefit of the review is the support it offers.

"We can offer them support for something lot of people do not understand," said Zukerbrod. "Our coming helps people continue to make sense of the process."



Sara Codair photo

Samantha McCarthy stands next to her self portrait, which she considers one of her best pieces.

Religious tradition surprises artist

BY MILTON AMADOR

Contributing Reporter

When artist Freddie Cabral saw Da Vinci's "Last Supper" covered with a purple piece of cloth in the altar of Saint Mary's of the Assumption Church, on Ash Wednesday, he almost fainted.

The famous painting of the renaissance master was one of the pieces commissioned by the church for restoration to Mr. Cabral, a sculptor from the Dominican Republic who now lives in Lawrence.

That Wednesday evening, Cabral wore his long forgotten black suit and his gray 'sombbrero' to attend the mass for the first time in many years.

"My family had always been very religious" say Cabral, "but to tell you the truth I don't remember being very fond of going to church, and I don't know much about the Christian liturgical calendar, either".

But that day he was very anxious to see how people would react to the piece he restored, and decided to visit church as one of many parishiner going to mass, on Ash Wednesday.

Cabral listened to the sacred words read from the Bible by father

Jorge Reyes, but his attention was to the center of the altar, where they have placed the "Last Supper" the day before.

"Although his words were very enlightened, I was so nervous to concentrate in the mass because I just want to find out what was wrong with the sculpture," said Cabral.

The artist who was not trained as a restorer, used his knowledge as a painter and sculptor to repair the faded features and broken parts of the "Last Supper" and five other statues in which he spent many hours since January of this year, working in the basement of the church.

When the mass was over, Cabral tried to talk to Father Reyes, but noticed he was too busy greeting people at the door, so instead, he ran to the get the sacristan, and covered him with his own mantelpiece of questions.

He said, "What happened with the piece? There's something wrong? Why is it covered with that piece of cloth?"

The sacristan looked at him with an apostle-like seriousness.

"We are in Lent, señor, and in the Christian church, all images are covered during the season," replied Father Reyes.



Milton Amador photo

Freddie Cabral works to restore this sculpture of the Last Supper for Saint Mary of the Assumption Church in Lawrence.

Arts & Entertainment

One student band rocks on hard

Zach Cox composes and plays his own music

By NICHOLAS CASALETTO
Contributing Reporter

Most of you may think that a band consists of several members. Those who play each individual instrument to their best potential which create music to entertain those around them, also to create music that is meaningful and usually has some sort of a message behind the

lyrics as well.

What if I told you that a 19 year old can do that all by himself and more? Zach Cox is a 19 year old first year student here at NECC and he develops and records his own music right in the comfort of his own home.

He is a mastermind at the guitar, bass, keyboard and also has quite the singing voice. He records each instrument separately and edits them all together to create one final work of art that will be enjoyable to just about anyone.

"I play no particular style of music; it's bias if you pick just one style of music to play" said Cox.

He started writing his own music in 8th grade, he was a natural and

quickly formed a band with his friends just to have fun and jam. They did not play many shows, just local talent shows and school promoted events.

Cox said he was hooked on music ever since he said the band "Godsmack" in 8th grade with his mother. His influences include such as Incubus, basic 90s rock, metal and the blues. All those genres of music mixed together create the music of Zach Cox.

I had a chance to listen to a few tracks and I was amazed. So what's in the future musically for Cox?

"Music is a dream, but I am at that age where it is a tough thing to get into, music is a fallback plan"

“Music is a dream, but I am at that age where it is a tough thing to get into, music is a fall back plan.”

-Zach Cox

said Cox.

Those who enjoy a good listen find Zach around campus; he is usually hyper and running around bring-

ing positive energy to the air, or sleeping in the lobby of the Spurk building waiting for his next class.

Too many holes in Jumper's plot

This critic thinks the only thing that jumps out is a bad script

By AARON FOSS
News Editor



In this movie a "Jumper" is slang for someone who has the ability to teleport instantly to any place in the world. Another slang use of the

word refers to someone who attempts to kill themselves by hurtling to the ground from the top of a building, much like I wanted too after seeing this horrible film.

"Jumper" is the story of David Rice, played by the laughably untalented Hayden Christiansen of Star Wars prequel fame as his string of terrible films continues. Rice discovers at the age of 15, that he has the ability to teleport at will to anywhere he desires. He uses this power to aid him in ditching a neglectful father and high school

bullying for a palatial lifestyle.

He uses the power to rob banks for money and pick up babes the world over. That is until Samuel L. Jackson shows up. Jackson plays Roland (yes, the fear inducing name of the film's villain is Roland) who is the leader of a group called the Paladins. Their job is to rid the world of jumpers.

Why? You're guess is as good as mine since the film never addresses that issue. How can Jumpers teleport? Why are they physically able to do so? Who are these Paladins? All of these questions were apparently minor details and never get answered.

It makes it seem like this film was setting itself up for a sequel about 20 minutes into it. The plot is incoherent, even for a film that is meant to rely on visual effects to entertain the crowd and even they aren't that good.

There are gaping plot holes surrounding the main character's relationship with his love interest played by the equally untalented Rachel Bilson, as well as his mother played by the wonderful Diane Lane.

She appears in the film for no less than 90 seconds, simply showing up to grab a big paycheck and scam, obviously aware of the horrible nature of the film and hopefully going to put her superb talents to use elsewhere.



Courtesy photo

Hayden Christiansen hangs out on the Pyramids as David Rice in the new movie, "Jumper."

As enjoyable as Samuel L. Jackson is as an actor, he is renowned for being a whore to the film industry. This film is another example of that and honestly it's getting old. He's a talented actor and shows it in great movies like "Pulp Fiction" to indie no names like "The Caveman's Valentine."

However, for everyone of those he does an atrocious film like "Snakes on a Plane" or "Jumper" and

as a movie fan, I enjoy him less and less each time I'm exposed to him.

"Jumper" just out and out sucks on every level. The visuals disappoint, the acting and directing fail miserably, and the bad writing stands out almost painfully. The art of teleportation is more effectively done by Nightcrawler in the first three minutes of X-Men 2 than in this whole film. The main character has what is basically a superpower, but

uses it to elevate himself rather than help anyone else and it makes you want the bad guys to win and kill him off. That is until you realize that the bad guys have no more appeal and in the end you want them all to just kill each other so the movie would end. It crawls along even at just 84 minutes and left me wishing I could "jump" back to the ticket booth and get my money back.

One sweet read

By MELISSA LIVERMORE
JOHNSON
Contributing Reporter

Libba Bray's novel, "The Sweet Far Thing," is the third book in the "A Great and Terrible Beauty" series, published in the end of 2007. "The Sweet Far Thing", set in late Victorian Era in England, follows the main character Gemma Doyle and her close school friends Ann Bradshaw and Felicity Worthington in their last few months at Spence Academy.

Set a couple months after the second book, "Rebel Angels," the story continues with Gemma Doyle in possession of all the magic from a secret world called the Realms, which she is the high priestess, and the fight for that magic.

The book reads quickly for 819 pages, and leaves the reader wanting more. The descriptions in the novel leave a clear picture of setting, char-

acter, plot, suspense, and emotion. It is easy for the reader to relate to at least one character if not most of the characters, and is set up so that the reader can easily lose themselves in the pages. Taking place in the Victorian Era it brings up the question of Women's Rights, the role of the women of the time, and prejudice. It looks at the world from the eyes of a seventeen year old girl who doesn't fit the mold of gossiping and corsets, but longs to make decisions for her self, and to make something more of herself than a social climber in the societies of England.

It is a great mix of imagination and fact from the era lead to a magnificent plot that makes the characters as real as any other person walking down the street.

Overall, the book is a very good read and a stunning conclusion to the series. For now. There is a sense of suspense that leaves the reader unable to put the book down.

Film festival, coming soon

By CHRISTINE RIBEIRO
Contributing Reporter

The 6th Annual Boston Independent Film Festival is fast approaching. The festivities are scheduled for April 23 through April 29. Individuals wishing to attend will have the opportunity to purchase passes and personal tickets in March on the festival website: www.iffboston.org.

The Opening Night of the festival will take place on April 23, at 7p.m. The Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square, Somerville, will host the event.

The festivities will continue over the following five days. Screenings will continue at the Somerville Theatre, Brattle Theatre, and Coolidge Corner Theatre. Apparently, Somerville will be the place to visit during late April.

The festival itself will feature more than 125 screenings of indie films. Film critics and viewers will

undoubtedly form unconscious lists of not only adored movies, but hated movies, as well. Individuals can exchange opinions at nightly parties, and panel discussions. The parties and discussions will be held to ensure the celebration continues after the films are aired.

Viewers may have the opportunity to rub-elbows with a number of guest filmmaker and celebrities. The festival may be the chance introduction some viewers have been waiting for.

If personal stardom is not what the individual desires, there is a likelihood some individuals will meet current celebrities.

The combination of films featuring probable stars of tomorrow, and shaking hands with a current celebrity is exhilarating. Both are reason enough to be in attendance.

Once-in-a-lifetime meetings will happen up and down the diverse city streets. Attendees will not even have to set foot in a theatre to be entertained.

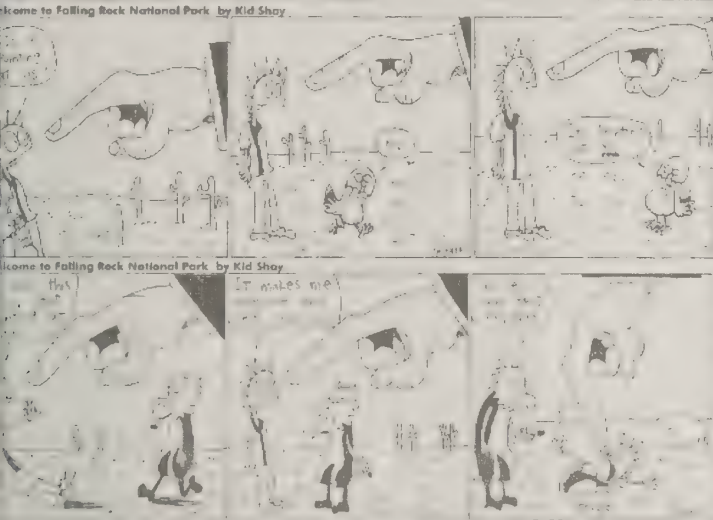
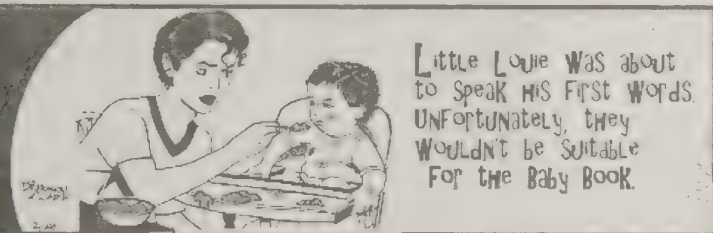
No one should underestimate the outreach the festival has. According to Yelp.com, a website driven by events, a number of celebrities have made an appearance at past festivals.

Some of the past guests include, Melvin Van Peebles, Eliza Dushku, Lili Taylor, and Bill Pullman. If Bill Pullman has made an appearance, the festivities should in no way be taken lightly. The fact that big-name celebrities are seeing the films is reason enough for the average viewer to go into the screenings with a positive outlook.

If you are an aspiring filmmaker or celebrity, or simply an avid movie goer, save a date in late-April to experience films unlike any you have seen before.

Boston continues to welcome the trendy, cutting-edge motif of the indie film drama. If you wish to be enlightened, and are a spontaneous individual, you should purchase a festival ticket and hit the city streets.

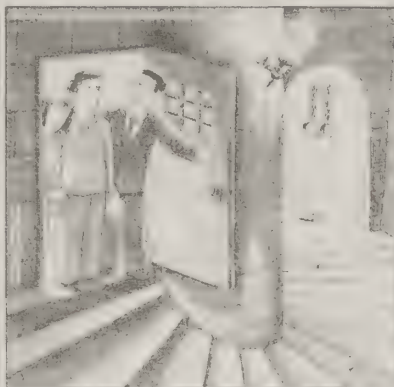
Arts & Entertainment



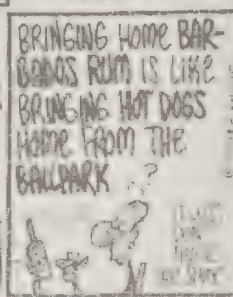
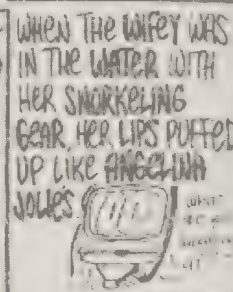
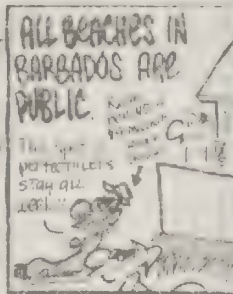
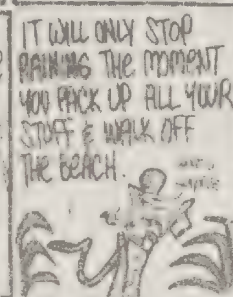
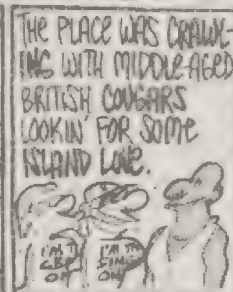
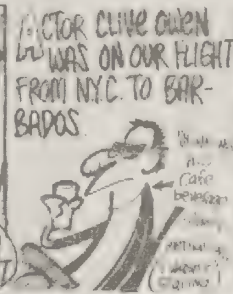
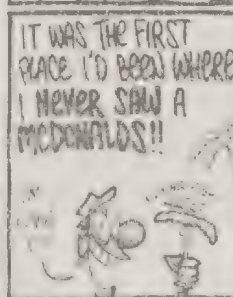
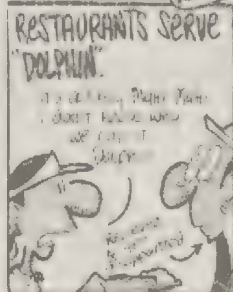
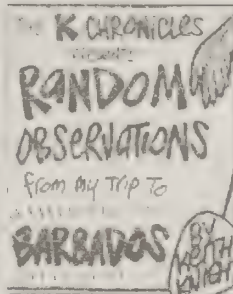
"How would YOU feel if you were the only tangible argument against intelligent design?"



"Let's finish 'The Sad Little Bunny' tomorrow night"

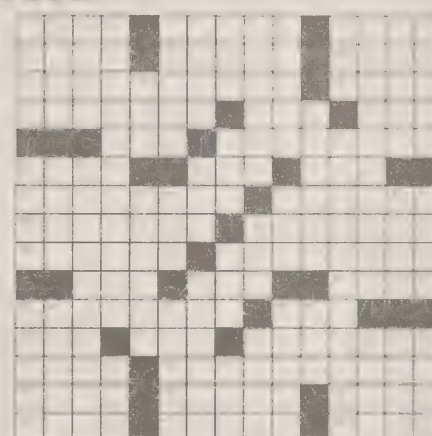


"The previous owners turned the basement into a terrific mother-in-law apartment"



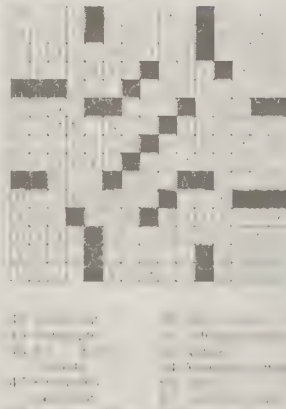
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Solutions



No More Heroes

New game makes having fun cool and stylish

BY CAMERON PURDIE
Contributing Reporter

No More Heroes is the latest venture by cult-favorite video game developer Suda51 and his production company, Grasshopper Manufacture. Suda's last game, Killer7, was a joint project with Resident Evil's head designer, Shinji Mikami. The game was received with extremely mixed reviews, scoring as low as 3.5/10, as high as 9.5/10, and everything in between. Killer7 became a cult hit shortly after its release, obtaining a small but very dedicated legion of fans. Despite the stylistic similarities between Killer7 and No More Heroes, the latter will undoubtedly be greeted with a much more positive reaction than its predecessor.

No More Heroes opens rather quickly, with little introduction. The opening cutscene briefly explains that the main character, Travis Touchdown, recently assassinated the eleventh best hitman, and decided to start climbing the ranks and become number one. After the cutscene, the player is immediately thrown into the first level, with an option to play through a tutorial before the real fighting begins. The first level leads up to, and includes, the fight to obtain rank ten, giving an idea of how quickly the game moves.

Some details are left out of the explanation in the opening cutscene, including how Travis recently won a beam katana (essentially a lightsaber without the copyright infringement) on an online auction, which is part of what prompted him to become an assassin.

Sound: 8/10

Just prior to the tenth ranking fight, the player is treated with an exchange in dialogue between Travis and the assassin, Death Metal. The conversation is heavily indicative of the dialogue throughout the rest of the game, with exceptional, albeit purposefully over-the-top, voice acting. The music throughout the game is consistently high quality, especially the main theme, of which there are numerous stylistically different versions.

The sound effects are also well represented. The sounds of enemies' gunfire, Travis' beam katana, and the various shouted taunts and ridicule are all done very well, with just a touch of cheese left over from old martial arts and samurai movies. The game makes use of the Wii Remote's speaker for the swinging of the beam katana and weapon clashes, though much like other games using it for something similar, the result is lackluster due to the poor quality of the speaker. The best

use for the speaker comes from phone calls Travis receives before each ranking fight, which require the player to hold the Wii Remote to their ear, as though using a phone.

Graphics: 9/10

The game, though it has relatively low poly models, and rather bland environmental textures, comes across as an absolute stylistic powerhouse. The cel-shading, much like Killer7, is utilized in an absolutely perfect manner, lending the game an interesting but wonderful clash between bright, vibrant colors (typically found on characters) and the darker, grittier side of things (most often found in the environment). When enemies are slain, there is an extremely over-the-top, and in fact very satisfying, spray of blood. At times with multiple enemies in front of Travis, the player may find their screen almost completely obscured by the blood spray, if an appropriate deathblow is administered. Unfortunately, this can cause a noticeable dip in framerate, though it only lasts as long as the spray remains, which is thankfully brief.

Gameplay: 9/10

As a stark contrast to Killer7, whose "travel on rails in third person, stop and shoot in first person" gameplay alienated much of its potential fanbase, No More Heroes is complete with fully explorable 3D environments, and even an entire open city to cruise around in. Unfortunately, the controls of Travis' motorcycle, the Schpeltiger, leave much to be desired. On the other hand, the overworld is used as more of a glorified menu than anything else, so the player won't need to drive too much.

Also contrary to Killer7, the combat on No More Heroes is the main focus of the game. The beam katana is swung by a press of the A button, a button which the player will find themselves using quite a bit in the game, and raising or lowering the Wii Remote changes Travis' stance from high to low, to get through enemies who are blocking. Blocking and locking on are both mapped to the Z button on the nunchuk, allowing the player to easily block most attacks.

The real beauty of the controls comes when an enemy is dropped down to zero health, when the game slows time down, and an arrow appears on the screen. Swinging the Wii Remote in the direction of the arrow causes Travis to do a finishing blow in that direction, releasing the aforementioned fountains of blood.

Additionally, Travis can perform a number of professional wrestling moves which, though they may seem out of place in a sword-fight, match the bizarre style of the game. At any time, the player can press the B button to do a punch or kick which has a chance of stunning the enemy. If the enemy is stunned,

another press of the B button activates an animation with Travis grabbing them, during which times slows down, and arrows signifying which way to wave the Wii Remote and nunchuk appear on screen. Travis learns additional wrestling moves throughout the game, some before boss fights, and others from videos rented from the local video store, Beef Head.

Overall: 9/10

No More Heroes is a wacky, off-beat, bizarre mish-mash of a game. It takes almost every cliché to ever be used in movies and games, and throws them all into the story, mocking them the whole way. Provided that one is not easily offended by massive amounts of violence, ludicrous amounts of swearing, and numerous sexual innuendo, No More Heroes is a very charming game, with a style all its own. Words simply do not do justice to how amusing and unique the game is, and it is definitely worth a rent if nothing else.

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Whenever you add a laser sword into the equation, nothing else in life matters.

War on scientology heats up

'Cyber terrorists' continues fight with religious group

By DILLON WHITE
Contributing Reporter

On Sunday Feb 10, the Church of Scientology was picketed en masse by protesters around the globe. Over seven thousand people showed up at an estimated 108 organized displays to exclaim their distaste of the church's activities. The movement started late January when the C.O.S. attempted to have a video of prominent Scientologist Tom Cruise removed from various media hosting websites including Youtube. The church claimed that the video was copyrighted and demanded that it was pulled immediately, angering a group known as Anonymous. In the following days, the church's website (<http://www.scientology.org>) was temporarily unavailable due to what may have been Denial of Service attacks on the web page, an action which is accomplished by flooding a web server with more inquiries than it can handle. In the coming month, Anonymous began to lay down the groundwork for the first step in their 'war', asking all of the religion's critics to join them in a global peaceful protest outside of several CoS buildings.

The pickets went as planned according to several of the people

who had attended, the official headcount in Boston alone surpassing 2 hundred at it's peak. One of the organizers spoke out saying, "It went better than I could have expected. I felt very overwhelmed the night before when realization set in that it would be bigger than I had originally thought." When asked what their motivation was, one of

anonymous. Lisa McPherson was a Scientologist for 18 years before she died of a Pulmonary Embolism while under the care of the Flag Service Organization (a branch of the C.O.S.) in 1995. The official cause of death was changed from "undetermined" to an "accident" by Florida's medical examiner in the finalized coronary report. According

"We felt that their attitude towards us and the Internet in general was pompous and abusive."

-Anonymous

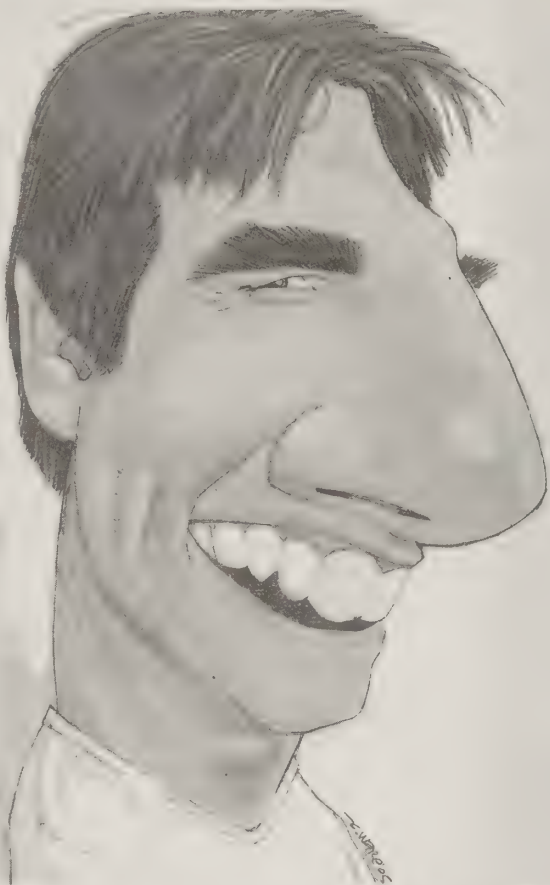
the group members responded saying, "We felt that their attitude towards us and the Internet in general was pompous and abusive." Another member went on to state, "We were motivated by the C.O.S's tactics in dealing with the release of a video featuring their most public follower, Tom Cruise."

However, for some of the group's members, the attempt at censoring the media clip was merely the final straw in a long string of apparent abuses. "I come from the town right next to the one Lisa McPherson grew up in. Back when everything happened with her I was outraged. But I didn't have much of a way to deal with it," stated one of the members who asked to remain

to several of the Church's critics, there are multiple other deaths that have been linked to the C.O.S., albeit unofficially.

The Church's official statement on the matter claims, " 'Anonymous' is perpetrating religious hate crimes against the Churches of Scientology and individual Scientologists," going on to say, "The Church is working in coordination with local authorities to minimize the negative impact of this mask-wearing, cyber-terrorist group." When called, the C.O.S. declined any comment on the events outside of their initial statement.

Anonymous will protest again on March 15, only two days after L Ron Hubbard's birthday.



MTC Campus Illustration

The leaked video with Tom Cruise talking about Scientology has sparked internet outrage.

Horoscopes

ARIES - Before mid-week romantic proposals and last minute social invitations may quickly initiate new relationships. Potential friends and lovers may openly express their hopes, dreams, insights and desires. Be receptive: your response will prove vital. Early Thursday watch for colleagues to publicly challenge policy changes or request new assignments. Business ambition is now on the rise. Submit applications, apply for loans and clarify workplace roles. All will work in your favor.

TAURUS - Monday through Thursday watch for an old friend or past lover to reappear. If so, nostalgic emotions may feel briefly overwhelming. Remain cautious: at present outdated or unproductive patterns may tend to repeat. After Friday respond quickly to renewed income sources or postponed job offers. Many Taureans will now expand their business duties or daily authority. Study the past for valuable options. Bosses and financial officials will search out your expertise.

GEMINI - For many Geminis home and workplace obligations will soon be in conflict. Late Monday loved ones may need more attention than usual. Stay focused and watch for subtle clues: before next week others may announce complex decisions or reveal their daily frustrations. All is well, howev-

er: take time for delicate discussions and extra home or social activities. After Friday minor digestive ailments may be briefly bothersome. Attend quickly to allergies or intestinal irritations.

CANCER - This week dreams or sudden flashes of wisdom may compel many Cancerians to challenge business officials or rapidly expand their workplace influence. Areas strongly affected are complex power struggles, unusual behavior or ethical standards. Stay strong: this is an excellent time to trust your own goals and intuitions. After Thursday pay close attention to the minor social comments of younger friends or relatives. Unique emotional triangles may soon be revealed.

LEO - Business goals will this week become obvious: before mid-week expect friends and colleagues to speak their minds and explore new concepts. After a phase of stagnation, rekindled ambition will bring fast results. Watch for loved ones to also make peace with restlessness or lost hope. Sudden or unusual requests may be an ongoing theme for the next 12 days. Thursday through Saturday minor health concerns may require attention: jaw, throat and upper lungs are accented.

VIRGO - Social and romantic confidence is now on the rise: after Tuesday watch for previ-

ously shy friends or lovers to issue private invitations. Work officials may also rely heavily on your past efforts or public reputation. Accept the compliment but remain cautious: this is not the right time to announce new projects or react quickly to new information. Later this week a close relative or trusted friend may require sensitive advice. Home or family obligations are highlighted: stay alert.

LIBRA - Past influences are now strong: over the next 12 days expect unresolved emotions and unfinished relationships to reappear. New social messages, fast romantic demands or sudden requests will be unusually distracting. Go slow, if possible, and avoid delicate emotional triangles. Friday through Sunday last minute business and financial decisions will work strongly in your favor. Listen to the ideas or proposals of others: short-term gains will prove rewarding.

SCORPIO - For many Scorpios subtle family pressures are now high. After Tuesday allow loved ones extra time to resolve past doubts and failed decisions. A close friend or relative may now need to vent their feelings or voice their concerns. Both are healthy, so not to worry. Do, however, find extra time for outdoor activities or new fitness regimes. Later this week fast financial changes, revised documents or business messages may cause confu-

sion. Thoroughly check all facts and records.

SAGITTARIUS - Don't ignore the comments, social ideas or *Sagittarius* opinions of friends and relatives over the next 12 days. At the moment home improvement, romantic success and emotional security may be deeply important to loved ones. Find gently expressive or creative ways to explore common ground and all will be well. After Friday some Sagittarians may encounter a rare series of business proposals, financial invitations or job offers. Respond quickly: much is changing.

CAPRICORN - Before mid-week key officials will be impressed by your insight and open to creative suggestions. Contemplate new procedures and propose fresh projects: improve daily routines or controversial policy changes will soon be announced. Early Thursday a long-term friend may be mildly jealous of a new relationship. If so, remain focused and refuse to discuss delicate emotions: this is not the right time to probe for answers, voice strong opinions or challenge the sensitivities of others.

AQUARIUS - Complex work projects *Aquarius* may now be replaced by potentially rewarding team assignments. Monday through Wednesday watch for positive ways to expand all

business relationships. At present new ideas, partnerships and workplace opportunities are reliable and worthwhile. Stay open to sudden or controversial changes. After mid-week a private power struggle between relatives may require diplomacy. Don't confront: hidden doubts will soon be boldly expressed.

PISCES - Over the next few days loved ones may ask for practical advice, final calculations or revised budgets. Use this time to plan new home events, clarify finances or arrange educational programs. For many Pisceans a renewed interest in public discussions will help resolve recent family disputes. After Thursday a powerful romantic attraction may be undeniable. Rare social introductions, new friends and fast invitations are highlighted: be receptive to all fresh ideas.

If your birthday is this week: Long-term relationships will now, and over the next eight weeks, experience a compelling wave of sensuality, rekindled affections and new loyalty. Single Pisceans can expect a series of invitations and new proposals. After June 11 authority figures will avoid important employment decisions for the next few weeks. Long-planned career moves, business expansion or new assignments will need to be postponed. Don't be dissuaded, however, and expect revised projects to be re-introduced by late August.

Alternative Edge

Internet serves up more comic goodness

Webcomics expand the medium for more to enjoy

By MICHAEL DENTE
Contributing Reporter

In this constant stormy sea called life, having proper distractions is sometimes the best way to keep afloat. One of the most efficient ways to distract oneself is to let someone else do it for you. Enter the Webcomic. They're easily accessible, updated on a regular basis, and often quite funny. Maybe you already read a few of the popular ones, like Penny Arcade or Ctrl+Alt+Delete. Maybe you got your geek on with 8-Bit Theater back when it was good, or maybe you let your inner furry out every once in a while with VG Cats. And although all those are good and funny, there are thousands upon thousands of other wonderful comics just waiting to be found. Here are a few.

A Softer World. If you like to laugh but feel guilty about it later, A Softer World is for you. Updated multiple times a week and written by the devilish Joey Comeau, ASW features short, broken, and very black humor that will make you smile as soon as cry. It's a raw and obscure that never disappoints. The basic Softer World comic consists of three panels separated like picture film (pictures provided by Comeau's friend, Emily Horne), with small typewriter-like print plastered unevenly all over it. The whole thing gives off a very indie almost counter-culture feel, not helped by dialogue like "The carbon footprint of a single human being is enormous. If you think about it, your honor, I'm an environmentalist." If that tickles your funny bone, check it out at www.asofterworld.com. Also take a look at Comeau's "Over-qualified" section, and his book Lockpick Pornography.

Questionable Content. One of the oldest comics around, the QC is as much about irrelevant human drama as it is robots and technology. Think Friends meets Star Trek. Produced solely by Jeph Jacques, Questionable Content updates an impressive five times a week and just recently broke the 1000th comic mark. Following the lives of a group of young adults and their talking, walking iPod, the QC is beau-

tiful because of its simplicity. It's about people living, working, and dealing with life. And robots. This is really interesting as it turns out. Jacques maintains a unique insight and creative flair that has kept Questionable Content new and fresh despite being about something you probably went through just the other day. If you want smile and laugh at yourself, (and maybe even learn something), head on over to www.questionablecontent.net. And best of luck



One of the most efficient ways to distract oneself is to let someone else do it for you. Enter the Webcomic.

reading through the archives.

Xkcd. This comic is summed up by its tagline: "A Webcomic of Romance, Sarcasm, Math, and Language." Weird? Sure. Really geeky? Absolutely. But the brilliance of Xkcd is that even if you know nothing about math or computers or sarcasm, you still laugh. It's complexity for the common man. With a dangerous combination of swears, vulgarity, and deep thought, each strip is more like artwork than anything else. Which is odd, considering each comic is drawn using what looks like Microsoft Paint. Updated every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, Xkcd is sure to make you smile. Even if you don't really know what you read. Found at www.xkcd.com, but be warned, the thing can be really vulgar with liberal uses of naughty words and innuendo.

Of course these are just a few less known comics. There are plenty of others out there and if you really like the ones above make sure to check out the "Links" section of each site. Webcomics tend to link other webcomics the author enjoys and before you know it you'll have unearthed a whole new pile of the Internet you might have missed.

Green awareness week

April 22nd marks beginning of awareness week to coincide with Earth Day

By ARTEMIS SAVORY
Features Editor



An all-faculty environmental team met last Tuesday in Lecture Hall A to discuss this year's Green Awareness Week. This year, the week will be celebrated from Apr. 22 to 25 and each exhibit will run from nine a.m. to two p.m.

It is with near-certainty that there will again be a library display, a listing of sustainable business, a lecture having to do with photography, other lectures having to do with veganism and about recycling toilets in the environment, and a suggestion box. The catchphrase for the box is still being discussed.

Last year, Elaine Mawhinney was in charge and ended up overworking herself for the full two weeks. This year, it will last only one week. Also present at the meeting were Jana Lamberti, the assistant coordinator of student activities, and from the NECC library, Linda Hummel-Shea, director of library services, and Gail Stuart, head of reference services.

Mawhinney is interested in more student involvement. Contact her for more information at emawhinney@necc.mass.edu.



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NECC

Sleep Tech Students Invite You to Celebrate

Sleep Awareness Week

When: March 3-7, 2008

Where: NECC Lawrence Campus Atrium
(45 Franklin St. Lawrence, MA)

Find out if you or someone you love may be at risk for OSA or other sleep related disorders.

Live Demos Daily
from 12PM-1PM
Watch as we prepare
participants for a sleep study

Join us in a fun, fact, filled week of sleep Including:

Sleep Trivia, Sleep Questionnaires
and literature from the experts in the Sleep World

50/50 raffle to benefit Sleep Technician Scholarship

Special Guest Speaker:
Pediatric sleep expert and author:

Patrick Sorenson, Ma, RPSGT

Topics: SIDS

You don't want to miss this lecture on Friday, March 7, 2008

Sports

Student-athlete shines for NECC

Jesus Montero has been shining on the court as well as in the classroom

CARLOS OLIVERA
Sports Editor



He is a superstar on and off the court. On the court he is one of the captains of the NECC men's basketball team. He is also averaging double figures in points and close to double figures in rebounds, as well as excelling in the classroom. He is Jesus Montero. Montero is currently carrying a 3.7 grade point average, as well as being a member of the Honor Society.

Born in Santo Domingo on May 8th, 1988, he was born to Renardo Montero and Ivelisse Espinal. He did not move to the United States until he was ten years old. Jesus first moved to Florida, where he stayed for a few months, then made his way to his hometown of Lawrence. Jesus, known to most as Melo, was skipped a few grades in the Dominican. He graduated from Lawrence High School in 2003 at the young age of 16. He was not always the big-man on campus however.

His freshman year at Lawrence High, Melo stood a whopping 5'3", and weighed in at 99 pounds. "I still remember walking through the halls, and teachers asking me if I was lost and if I was looking for my parents", recalls Melo. Now standing at 6'4, 185 pounds, he knows what it felt like being small and doesn't take his height for granted.

"I didn't really hit puberty until I graduated", says Melo. Graduating at 16 made it tough for Melo to succeed on the court because he was not

as physically matured as some of his opponents.

Straight out of high school, Jesus took his 5'9 frame to Worcester State. He was enrolled for a year and a half, beginning in the fall of 2003. He tried out for the basketball team and was cut. He was one of the last one's cut. Being cut would be devastating to

Worcester State to return home. "I was too young and immature for college at that time", recalls Melo. After leaving Worcester, he decided to take some time off from school. When Jesus was ready to return to the classroom in the fall of '06, he found his way to Northern Essex. Fully-grown and mature he was ready to finally

than a handful of schools coming to watch him play. He has gotten a few offers from Division II and Division III schools, such as Fitchburg State, Daniel Webster, and the University of New England, to name a few. He is not made up his mind as to where he is going, saying, "I'm just trying to keep my options open right now".

It wasn't that difficult for Melo to make the transition on the court, but he is quick to give out credit to others. "Coach made me the player I am today, he has given me a lot of help during my two years here". "I've had good teammates and a good coaching staff that have really helped me out".

Melo is also making the grade in the classroom. He is currently majoring in Business Transfer. He is a solid A student.

As far as after school, Melo says "If basketball doesn't work out for me, I hope to have a future in business marketing".

I still remember walking through the halls, and teachers asking me if I was lost and looking for my parents.

Jesus Montero

most, but not for Melo. Being the last one cut, was encouraging seeing as he had never played team basketball before.

After three semesters Jesus left

show off his natural abilities on the court, as well as the classroom.

He is definitely opening eyes this season. He has been putting on a good show this season with more

Fantasy becoming new fad for Americans

Different fantasy sports are being played all over the U.S.

BY TERRY BALLARD
Contributing Reporter

A-Rod or Johan Santana? LeBron or Kobe? LT or Randy Moss? It all depends on the way you want to go. Are you a true fan of your team and want them to win? Fantasy sports are taking over the world. But the only way to win is to shut down your top fantasy player, fantasy sports is ruining how people watch sports now.

What is a fantasy sport? The definition is a game where fantasy

owners build a team that competes against other fantasy owners, based on the stats generated by individual players or teams of a professional sport.

In this world, between 15 and 18 million people play some sort of fantasy sport. That is a large amount of people playing the fantasy sports with more teams than one. The average fantasy sports owner is a 36-year-old married white male with a working job. The most played fantasy sport is football. Over 85% of fantasy owners play football.

The reason for that is that you just have to go on 15 minutes before the games all start and update your roster. It's a lot easier than any other fantasy sport.

During the baseball season,

everyday teams either play or not, players sit out because of their fatigue level. So everyday updates to their team is a must to

In the fantasy sports world, between 15 and 18 million people play some sort of fantasy sport.

-Terry Ballard

be the best. The same applies to basketball and hockey.

The top fantasy sports playing sites are; Yahoo.com, ESPN.com, CBSsportsline.com, Rotowire.com and hoops.sports.ws. Most of the

sites are free to play. If you play with friends that live or go to school with you, then it gets real interesting.

The sport that has been getting more fantasy attention over the past year has been basketball. It has increased by seven percent, followed by football, which got four percent.

A flaw that fantasy has is that in many local leagues, gambling is an issue. Fantasy is a game of chance, which in many people's eyes, qualifies as gambling. Of all over the world, only twenty-two percent of leagues involve money.

Many people especially in college are into fantasy sports. Most non-athletes are playing fantasy sports because they thrive on chances with the pros instead of doing it for themselves.

It all depends if you have the time and have the thrill that real deal fantasy owners do to play these types of games. Fantasy sports are taking over percent by percent and the risk is low if you don't gamble, but if you gamble the reward may be costly.

Tiger Woods begins 2008 on fire

Woods picks up in 2008 where he left off in 2007

BY MIKE DOWNEY
MCT Campus

"Do you think you could win every tournament you play in?"

Tiger Woods: "That's my intent." Holy mother of golf, he won again on Sunday. That makes five in a row for Mr. Tiger Woods. He hasn't lost in 2008.

Now the guy already is being asked if he might shoot for a perfect season ... you know, like the New England Patriots did. Being asked if he could win every single time. Maybe he will.

"If you don't believe you can win an event," Woods said after winning a rich match-play thing in Arizona, "don't show up."

If you don't think you can beat him, don't bother joining him. It's over before it's over. Stay home. Clean your clubs.

A quick look at what's left for 2008 and yes, you can see why

Woods could win them all. It's downhill from here.

April 10-24, The Masters, Augusta National, Augusta, Ga. Tiger tries on a green jacket before the Masters begins, just to save time. He picks out a 42 regular and tells them to put it in the trunk of his car.

PGA Tour officials force him to go out and actually play the golf course. Woods shoots 75 to prove he is made of flesh and blood, not filled with "nuts and bolts," as Stewart Cink recently suggested.

Tiger finishes 64-62-60 to win by 20 shots. A rainy day in Georgia rusts his nuts and bolts, but he wins anyhow.

May 8-11, The Players Championship, TPC Sawgrass, Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Woods phones in a 65 to win. Literally. He uses a ship-to-shore radio from his yacht, docked near Nassau, to phone in each of his shots.

A protest by Phil Mickelson that a golfer must be required to attend a tournament in person is ignored.

June 12-15, U.S. Open, Torrey Pines, San Diego, Calif.

To tie Byron Nelson's record of 11 tournament victories in a row, Woods agrees to Mickelson's dare

that he play barefoot and with one hand tied behind his back.

A spectator disrupts a putt at the 18th green. It angers Tiger, who begs San Diego to stay classy.

June 26-29, Buick Open, Warwick Hills, Grand Blanc, Mich.

Tiger wins again, but not before expressing his huge disappointment with each citizen of the United States who still hasn't had the good sense to go out and buy a Buick.

The PGA slaps Woods with a \$100,000 fine for "disrespecting other kinds of cars."

July 10-13, John Deere Classic, TPC Deere Run, Silvis, Ill.

Michelle Wie finally wins a men's PGA tournament, but only thanks to a sponsor's exemption that permits her to stand on Woods' shoulders while he hits the ball.

Wie thus becomes the first female golfer to win a men's tournament while being carried by a guy.

July 17-20, British Open, Royal Birkdale, Lancashire, England.

Paul McCartney makes a \$100 billion bet that Woods won't win the tournament, thereby risking close to half of the alimony demanded by Heather Mills.

Woods does win. He uses a por-

tion of his winnings to purchase Wales.

Aug. 7-10, PGA Championship, Oakland Hills, Bloomfield Township, Mich.

Tiger's winning streak is in jeopardy when he trails Mickelson by two going into the 72nd hole. But everything changes when Mickelson's tee shot goes off a tree, then a tent, then off the windshield of a car owned by a woman from Flint.

Woods aces the par 4 with a bunker rake, just to rub it in.

"I told you, if you don't think you can win," he says, "don't show up."

Aug. 25-28, Democratic National Convention, Denver.

Woods accepts the nomination to be Barack Obama's running mate, infuriating Republican challenger John McCain, who screams at Obama: "I asked him first!"

In a related development, The New York Times reports a suspected relationship between Obama and a lobbyist representing Nike.

Sept. 4-7, BMW Championship, Bellview, St. Louis.

Although he is clearly upset by the Tournament Formerly Known as the Western Open being moved out of the Chicago area, Woods enters it

and wins. He is appeased by announcement that the 2009 event plans to return to Lemont as the BMW Diablo Cody Classic.

Sept. 18-21, Ryder Cup, Valhalla, Louisville.

Oct. 16-19, Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospitals for Children's Open, TPC Summerlin, Las Vegas.

Raising a bundle for charity while winning yet another PGA Tour event, Woods also makes a music video with Timberlake called "9-Iron in a Box" that is expected to win each of them a Grammy.

Tiger announces that he probably will skip the Miley Cyrus Miniatur Golf Pro-Am as well as the Lindsay Lohan Skins Game later in the month.

Oct. 21-30, World Series, Chicago.

Woods defeats the Cubs all by himself in Game 4, so far in from after six innings at Wrigley Field that the rest of the series is called off.

Asked if he could also enter and win the Tour de France, the X Game and the Ultimate Fighting Championship, he replies: "That's my intent."

He just might.

Sports

Moss must stay with Pats

Patriots must stop being cheap and pay Randy Moss

BY JULIO TEJEDA
Contributing Reporter

Show me the money! The famous line from the 1996 movie *Ferry Maguire* has become an everyday line between professional athletes, their agents, and the front office of every team. Ask New England Patriots fans about it and they might tell you how they feel about Randy Moss, who is a free agent while coming off a spectacular season. Patriots fans embraced and welcomed Moss with open arms after being traded to New England during 2007 NFL Draft.

Moss, who has said before that he would like to retire a Patriot came off a career year with 98 receptions, 1,493 yards, and an NFL record-setting 23 receiving touchdowns. After an extraordinary season and changing the way the Patriots offense operated in 2007, most NFL experts believe Moss will be asking for a contract that would make him the highest paid wide receiver in the league.

The Patriots have the option of applying the franchise tag on Moss, locking him up for one more season, but most important it can give them time to negotiate a contract with Moss while protecting him from other teams. The franchise tag number for receivers for the 2008 season



Courtesy photo

Randy Moss is a necessary player for the Pats

is at 7.84 million, which would be more than Moss' salary for the 07 season. Is not a secret that the Patriots need Moss on the field. He makes Tom Brady look unrealistic, and even without the ball in his hands; he has an impact, as other teams will double-team him leaving other receivers one-on-one. The Patriots scored a record setting 589 points last season surpassing the 1998 Minnesota Vikings, a team that Moss was also part off as they scored 556 points.

NFL teams have until Feb 21 to decide on which players they will apply the franchise tag. The players are not fans of franchise tags as recent history teaches us. Last season the Patriots tagged cornerback Asante Samuel, who is also a free agent, and Samuel sat out for training

camp and the pre-season, and was not ready to play in the first couple of weeks. Chicago Bears linebacker Lance Briggs was also applied the tag last season and was unhappy as he demanded the team to trade him.

New England has been known, in recent history, for letting key players go to accommodate their salary cap. It would not surprise many fans if the team decides not to negotiate with Moss, as in the past they traded receiver Deon Brach to the Seattle Seahawks because contract negotiations. The Patriots need to reach into their bank account and pay Moss the money he deserves. Patriot's fans remember the highlights of the 2007 regular season, and many would agree on seeing them again for 2008.

Don't forget the Bruins

Bruins are having a good season quietly

BY NICHOLAS J. KUCHAR
Contributing Reporter

Boston Red Sox: 2007 World Series Champions, New England Patriots: AFC Champions, Boston Celtics: Best record in the NBA and their best start since the Bill Russell era: New England Revolution, two straight trips to the MLS title game. Something's missing. The Boston Bruins, the other pro team in Boston.

The Bruins, who have been quiet this season, have been overlooked by the other sports teams in Boston, and have had a decent year so far and their voice needs to be heard! The B's have compiled a record of 32-23-6 (third in the Northeast Division and seventh in the Eastern Conference) with stars such as, right wing Phil Kessel, center Marc Savard and Captain defenseman Zdeno Chara.

Savard, the 30-year old center leads the team in points (69) and is

first in the NHL with 55 assists. Savard replaced injured Atlanta Thrashers right wing Danny Heatley on the All-Star roster and scored the game-winning goal for the Eastern Conference.

Phil Kessel, who missed 11 games last season after being diagnosed with testicular cancer, and has become a key player for the B's offense this year.

Chara, the big 6'9" Czechoslovakian defenseman has surprisingly become a major part of the B's offense and defense. Capt. Chara is third on the team with 42 points and large portion of those points being assists.

Another key player for Bruin's has been center Patrice Bergeron has missed 48 games this season with a concussion and a broken nose suffered on Oct. 27 against the Philadelphia Flyers. Bergeron, who has been on the team since the B's drafted him in 2003, has never had a serious injury in his career. During the 2005-2006 season he played all 81 games while scoring 33 goals and helping his team out with 42 assists.

In goal this season, well it's been sort of a goalie by committee.

Defending the net for the majority of the season has been Tim Thomas. Thomas has played 40 games and has a record of 19 wins and 14 losses. Another goalie that has been in net this season has been Alex Auld. Auld was acquired via trade from the Phoenix Coyotes and has played 13 games for the B's and has a record of 6 wins and 6 losses.

It is clear that first-year coach Claude Julien and second-year General Manager Peter Chiarelli have a lot of work ahead of them to make the Bruin's a Stanley Cup championship team like their brethren in the professional Boston sports world. The Bruins shouldn't be left in the dark; the young talent on this team is too good to be overlooked.

The Boston Bruins are back at home at the Boston Garden this week after the end of a road trip last week. This home stand the B's will face-off against the Pittsburgh Penguins, Atlanta Thrashers and Washington Capitals. For more information about your hometown Boston Bruin's go to: bruins.nhl.com.



Weekly Sports Trivia QUESTIONS:

1. Which Bruin set an NHL record with the two fastest goals to begin a game?
2. How many points do the Bruins currently have?
3. Who is currently leading the Bruins in points?
4. Which Bruin won the hardest shot contest at the 2008 All-Star game?
5. Who was the last Bruin to win the seventh man award?

ANSWERS:

1. Mike Knuble, two goals in 27 seconds.
2. 70 points, seventh in Eastern Conference.
3. Marc Savard 69 points, (14 goals, 55 assists)
4. Zdeno Chara, 103.1 MPH.
5. Mike Knuble, 2002-2003 Season.

NECC activities draw crowds

photos by Daniel Potocki



Some students relax in the Sports and Fitness Center enjoying a game of pool.



Health Quarters Sarah Kennedy hands out free condoms at Winterfest.



Bruce Potter models the latest Beijing fashion trend at the Chinese New Year celebration.



The Observer's happy couple, Nick Sermuksnis, right, and Amber Lucas at Winterfest.



Dodgeball attracted many students to battle against each other.



The smell of victory is in the air as one team draws near to victory in front of onlookers.